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Colorado Springs Independent

The face of REVENGE

How Craig Brittain made himself the Springs' own Internet antihero 15

By Chet Hardin

Bradley Flora

DO YOU KNOW TAOS?

Some people say there are no more secrets left in skiing and snowboarding. They say there's nothing left to be discovered, that all the stashes are gone, the mysteries revealed. They say that powder days have been reduced to a mere hour, and the only way to chase first tracks is fight the crowds.

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For those who find circuses sad, we present *Quidam*, the traveling Cirque du Soleil show that writes despair right into its story line.

"Young Zoé is bored; her parents, distant and apathetic, ignore her. Her life has lost all meaning." Good times! (Except ... they are.)

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Film:
Incendiary introspection

A lot of generally intelligent people have said a lot of dumb things about *Zero Dark Thirty*. Some have argued that it glorifies torture. Others have argued the exact opposite: that it clearly indicates torture failed as an intelligence-gathering technique.

Submitted: Both sides are wrong.

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Ranger Rich:
Different look at Gary Flakes

We've heard by now the quiet voice of Gary Flakes. And we've heard the outrage over his City Council candidacy.

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Photography by Bradley Flora.

UpComing

ReLeaf, the *Indy*'s guide to all things medical marijuana in the Pikes Peak Region, is just weeks away from print.

Interested in advertising in the first ReLeaf of the 2013? The deadline to be included is 5 p.m., Jan. 16.

Contact the *Indy* offices today at 577-4545.

You ARE A Winner!

Lewis Black:
Pair of tickets
Jeff Burgner

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Tucanos Brazilian Grill and Old Chicago both have $20 gift certificates waiting for you to win. Get your game on and then get your grub on!

Register for the IndyBlast (and your chance to win) today at csindy.com.

SliceOfLife

Kin Scott

The little bit of moisture as the result of last week's snowstorm made everyone happy, even those now likely sunning themselves in our 50-degree weather.

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Letters

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If your comments are mailed or e-mailed to us, we'll consider them for publication — unless you request otherwise. Please include your name, city of residence and a daytime phone number for verification.

A people's fire review

I don't know about you, but I want to see and hear more of the facts relating to the Waldo Canyon Fire. Pam Zubeck's report on the fire ("Misfire," cover story, Dec. 12) should have every citizen of Colorado Springs' attention and I would ask the *Independent* to be the people's champion to get the full story told *before* the whitewashed version is released.

I would not like to see a third-party independent report done, because no politician, or agency, is going to let the faintest whiff of their culpability come to light on this devastating tragedy. And the experts of today are no better than the King's Court of yesterday — no one will say the King is naked. Besides, we had experts tell us a lot of things during the fire, and we saw how much they were listened to then when there was a chance to *save* lives and property.

No, I suggest that "We the people," aided by the great fourth estate (the *Independent*) get to the bottom of this tragedy through interviews with survivors, first responders and all the supporting cast of players. Because the trauma is not over. Our neighbors' lives have been torn apart ... are still being torn apart.

Considering the severity, mass destruction and human toll of the Waldo Canyon Fire, our city leadership should be able to account for every minute of their time and where their attentions were focused — and where they clearly weren't.

Yes, tell us we played a part by not raising taxes to pay for better communication gear, but then you'd better have a damn good reason why the command center we *did* pay for wasn't initially used, and the firefighters who could talk to each other couldn't find out "who's in charge."

— Charlie Mussi
Colorado Springs

Take another look

Every resident of Colorado Springs should be demanding an independent review and investigation of the handling of the Waldo Canyon Fire. We need the critique of wildfire specialists to fix the problems and issues that emerged, especially the leadership problems.

It is beyond arrogant that Mayor Bach has insisted that the city's after-action report is sufficient to address the multitude of problems that were documented in "Misfire" on Dec. 12 by the *Independent*. From evacuation plans that were implemented too late, to poor communication, to poor planning and organization, to poor command and control, to the poor use of available resources, this city has plenty to learn.

It's time for a tough outside look at the response to this fire and for real change before we start the next fire season. People's lives and property are at stake. If a few egos get bruised, too bad. If people in leadership positions need to be replaced, too bad.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Pam Zubeck for these investigative reports and to the *Indy* for its courage in publishing them. Apparently, the city's PR machine works fine and would have kept us all in the dark.

— Mary J. Talbott
Colorado Springs

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

'The gun lobby's political contributions, advertising and lobbying have dwarfed spending from anti-gun violence groups. No longer.'

— Former U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords and her husband Mark Kelly, launching Americans for Responsible Solutions, which will fight for laws to reduce gun violence.

Playing the fear card

Jill Coleman's attempt to take down Rich Tosches ("Media frenzy," Letters, Jan. 2) is a classic example of the right wing fringe's feeble debate strategy. Accusing Rich, and by extension every gun control advocate, of "pushing for an end to the Second Amendment" is about fear, not logic.

Create a straw-man argument not present in the original essay, get people afraid, and maybe they won't notice you have not presented any actual facts. It is reminiscent of Pat Robertson's nonsense about how legalizing same-sex marriage will make people want to marry their dogs and cats.

Ms. Coleman has to know that it is possible to add background checks to gun shows and outlaw military weapons and high-capacity ammunition clips without obliterating the entire Second Amendment. She can't admit she knows it, however, because it would force her to argue rationally, including explaining why ordinary, law-abiding citizens need to fire 100 rounds without reloading. There is no good reason, of course, so she hides behind the spurious "slippery slope" argument, the groundless notion that once gun control advocates get one law, they will want another and another until all guns are banned.

The slippery slope may get people riled up, but it is empty fear-mongering. Every proposed solution, from the president's on down to Tosches', has been limited to the problem of weapons whose only purpose is to kill a lot of people without reloading. No one is talking about hunting rifles or self-defense handguns, not now, not ever.

As the national discussion continues, I propose that Ms. Coleman and all NRA members stop pretending the Second Amendment is endangered by the modest effort to get rid of weapons no sane person really needs.

— Tim Rowan
Colorado Springs

Paranoia strikes deep

I found the letter by Jill Coleman in your Jan. 2 issue beyond disgusting. To accuse someone of being happy that 20 children were massacred is about as low as is possible. Rich Tosches was obviously as devastated by this horror as anyone else.

No one is talking about taking away Second Amendment rights that would affect any of the rabid gun owners who seem to live in a state of paranoia. If any of these people feel that they must own assault rifles in order to have satisfactory lives, they need to seriously think about what is important. To say that those who are concerned about the violence in this country want human beings killed in order to promote their views is ignorant and completely false.

The Founding Fathers lived in a different world. When the constitution was written, the idea that someone would murder schoolchildren or crowds of people was very likely something no one could have imagined or foreseen. The world has changed, and we need to change along with it.

— Sally Alberts
Monument

Leave it to the pros

Gun advocates always defend the argument that "If Mr. Smith only had a sidearm and some training, the killer would have failed." There's a prevailing "Old West" fantasy that if everyone were armed, Dodge City would have law and order.

But first of all, Dodge City (in its gun-toting days) never had law and order. Second, ask any war veteran who's been in combat, or a police officer who's been under fire: The best training rarely meets the challenge of an actual crisis. All training can do is equip one mentally, physically and materially, then one just "hopes for the best." Combat has proven that nothing is predictable. The anticipated hero is the least heroic, and vice versa.

The point is that even professional soldiers experience panic and hysteria. That said, imagine a scenario that's unexpected, involving ordinary citizens, some of whom who even have a gun. Reality is simply different from anything ever imagined or capable of being prepared for.

First, the gun-toting theory assumes that one is as proficient as a "professional" (controlled breath, focused, able to assess the situation, can distinguish the "target" from others, able to improvise with available materials, and of course is a proficient shot). Second, it assumes he's able to perch himself where he can actually shoot the attacker (plain-clothed, blended in, concealing a weapon). Third, it assumes that his "training" can handle overwhelming hysteria and screaming.

The NRA wants owners to think they can actually handle crises just by virtue of holding a gun and "feeling strong." But the person behind the trigger attempting to "do a good thing" most always ends up acting at the wrong time with the wrong people.

LongStoryShort

Craig Brittain says he was a troubled teen. He had a "habit" of punching people in the face. And for fun, he would drag race down Academy Boulevard.

As an adult, the Colorado Springs resident found a new way to test his tolerance for risky behavior, co-founding the revenge-porn website Is Anybody Down?.

While Brittain will argue that he has done nothing illegal, that doesn't mean that he isn't facing a world of opposition. For example, few people attract the hostility of the notorious hacker collective Anonymous, which just in the last few days has posted Brittain's Social Security number online — that, following a document dump it had carried out months earlier, in 2012.

In our mid-December interview for this week's cover story (starting on p. 15), Brittain shrugged off the Anonymous threat, as he shrugged off the threats posed by numerous attorneys looking for any possible legal challenge that will shutter his website and cut off his source of income. It's clear that Brittain thinks he's got the situation under control.

In fact, Brittain sees himself as a member of the vanguard of free-speech and transparency activists. He is pushing the bounds of what is and isn't allowable online so that we can all enjoy the freedom that the Internet provides.

He might just pull it off. Win this race. But there is also the chance that he will crash and burn.

— Chet Hardin

Letters

He usually "regrets" his involvement, saying "I should have left it up to the police" — and the police agree.

— Richard Hiatt
Guffey

Our exported violence

There have been many thoughtful letters about the recent shootings in Connecticut and their likely causes. Every time we have a shooting or, rarely, a terrorist attack there seems to be a subtext that says: "This is different — this is happening to us!" And yes, when it comes to these mass shootings, they seem to happen disproportionately in the U.S. Many are certain about how to fix this problem, although the evidence for any solution is never convincing.

At this time of uncertainty could we (just once) take a look at all the violence that we thoughtlessly have visited on people in other countries? In the midst of mourning for our fallen children, could we look at the weddings and funerals that our drones have blown to smithereens? Or perhaps the Iraqi children who will die of cancer because we bombarded their country with weapons encased in depleted uranium? Or the ones killed directly by our assault on their country? If these events even make it into the papers, we look at them and turn the page as if we were brushing off a fly.

We spend more on arms than the next 12 countries combined. Our arms industry is one of our most prosperous and does an especially brisk export business. A catalogue of demonstrations of our desire to nurture this metastasis of violence could fill this whole page

It is important to note that it is financed by our tax dollars, which is to say with our tacit approval. Should we really be surprised when violence breaks out "inexplicably" in our own backyard? Of course a link between the violence that we export and the violence we suffer can't be ascertained, but why should we imagine that we would be exempt from the horrors we have perpetrated on so many others? Isn't it time to say enough?

— Steve Milligan
Colorado Springs

Guns and profits

People are losing interest in hunting. According to the website americanrifleman.org, sales of hunting rifles have plummeted: Remington rifle production was down 22 percent from 2007-2008; Sturm, Ruger & Company reported in 2010 that hunting rifles "accounted for less than 15 percent of our sales"; Ed Brown Products, a boutique maker of custom-grade hunting rifles, has shut down production because sales were so bad; and Smith & Wesson have also fallen prey to this trend.

In an effort to make up for this lost revenue, gun manufacturers have been trying to stimulate sales of other varieties of firearms, like handguns and military-style weapons. To accomplish this, they've been exploiting people's fears, capitalizing on incidents such as the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School, to make people feel vulnerable and make them want guns.

Please remember this when you hear pro-gun organizations, lobbyists and legislators suggesting that in order to be safe, we need more guns. This has nothing to do with being safe. It has nothing to do with protecting children. It has nothing to do with Second Amendment "rights." Like so much else, it has everything to do with money.

— Fred Kormos
Colorado Springs

Fight *Citizens United*

In November, the voters of Colorado voted overwhelmingly — something like 3 to 1 — in favor of Amendment 65, essentially requesting the Colorado Legislature to at least go on record as opposing the January 2010 Supreme Court ruling *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, which basically legalized bribery of elected and administrative officials of the government, in its several forms by removing "donation" limits and accountability. In effect, that ruling changed the United States from a democracy to a capitalistic oligarchy of corporate and big-money interests.

It would seem, with the public expression as large as the Colorado vote in November, that there would be some response from the Colorado Legislature. Unfortunately, based on calls to my representatives and the governor's office, that turns out to be somewhat naive. The answers I got were all, "There will be no response from the Colorado Legislature!"

The only way some action will be taken is for elected officials in our Legislature to initiate some form of resolution to the effect that the people of Colorado stand behind the U.S. Congress in creating a constitutional amendment overturning *Citizens United*. This has already been done by several states and some 29 U.S. senators, Michael Bennet among them, to his credit.

So this request: Call your Colorado representative and request that the Legislature respond to the voters' wishes. It only takes one legislator to initiate this action. Let's find him or her!

— John Hobson
Colorado Springs

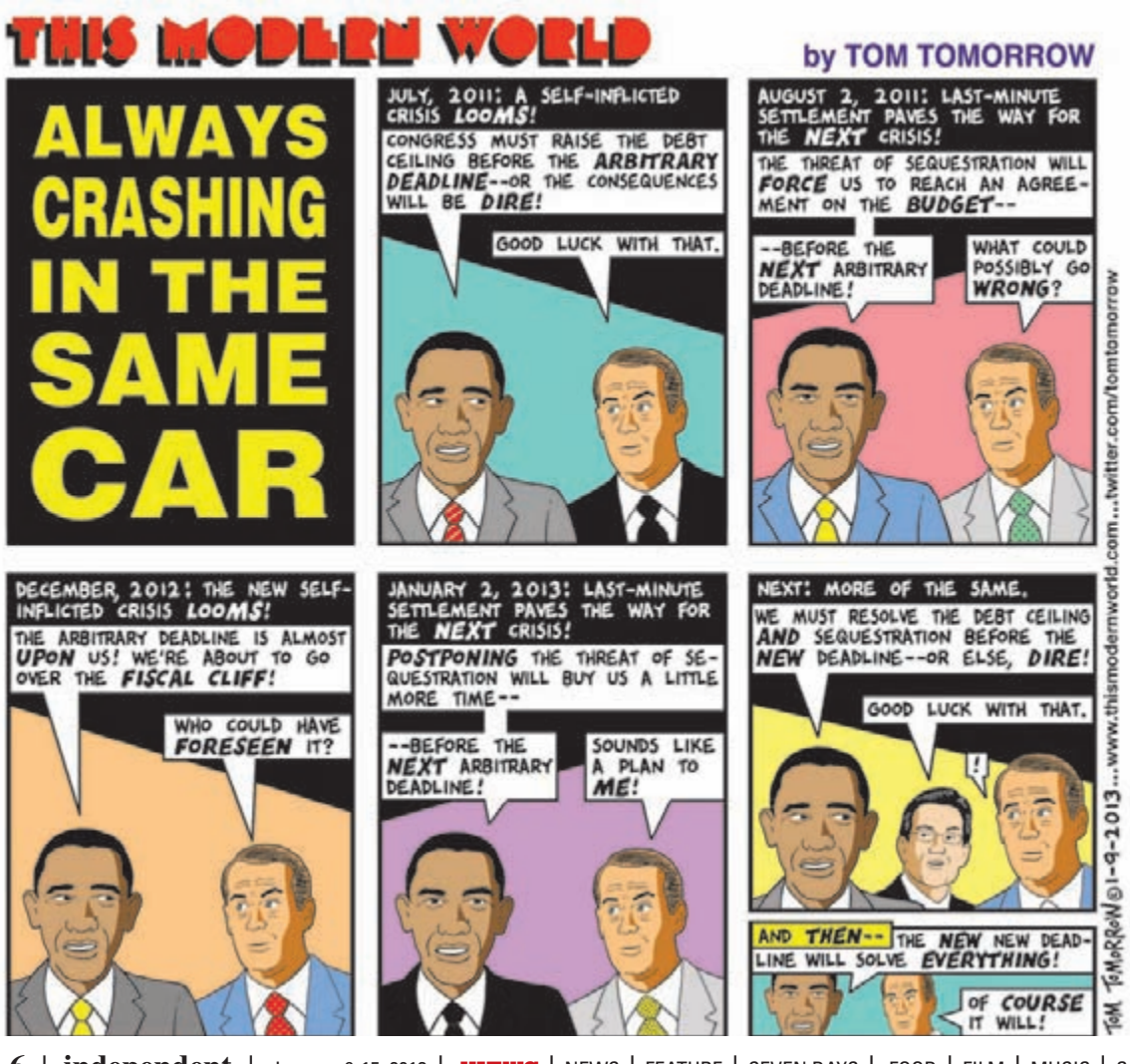
Lamborn's antagonism

The legislation approved by the House of Representatives on Jan. 2 will increase the income tax rates of individuals earning at least $400,000 and couples earning at least $450,000 annually, a mere 0.7 percent of the American public.

Let me get this straight: Doug Lamborn voted against a measure that would keep in place the income tax rates of 99.3 percent of Americans? Certainly, Lamborn preferred a bill with reductions in government spending. Yet, if he can't support a bill that maintains 99 percent of the Bush-era income tax rates without expiration, what type of tax legislation will he vote for?

I do not understand the conservative antagonism to any legislative compromise.

— Joel Imrie
Colorado Springs


THIS MODERN WORLD
by TOM TOMORROW
ALWAYS CRASHING IN THE SAME CAR
JULY, 2011: A SELF-INFLICTED CRISIS LOOMS!
CONGRESS MUST RAISE THE DEBT CEILING BEFORE THE ARBITRARY DEADLINE--OR THE CONSEQUENCES WILL BE DIRE!
GOOD LUCK WITH THAT.
AUGUST 2, 2011: LAST-MINUTE SETTLEMENT PAVES THE WAY FOR THE NEXT CRISIS!
THE THREAT OF SEQUESTRATION WILL FORCE US TO REACH AN AGREEMENT ON THE BUDGET--
--BEFORE THE NEXT ARBITRARY DEADLINE!
WHAT COULD POSSIBLY GO WRONG?
DECEMBER, 2012: THE NEW SELF-INFLICTED CRISIS LOOMS!
THE ARBITRARY DEADLINE IS ALMOST UPON US! WE'RE ABOUT TO GO OVER THE FISCAL CLIFF!
WHO COULD HAVE FORESEEN IT?
JANUARY 2, 2013: LAST-MINUTE SETTLEMENT PAVES THE WAY FOR THE NEXT CRISIS!
POSTPONING THE THREAT OF SEQUESTRATION WILL BUY US A LITTLE MORE TIME--
--BEFORE THE NEXT ARBITRARY DEADLINE!
SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN TO ME!
NEXT: MORE OF THE SAME.
WE MUST RESOLVE THE DEBT CEILING AND SEQUESTRATION BEFORE THE NEW DEADLINE--OR ELSE, DIRE!
GOOD LUCK WITH THAT.
!
AND THEN-- THE NEW NEW DEADLINE WILL SOLVE EVERYTHING!
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GetInvolved

Open to all

Sign up for this day-long event for high schoolers, college students under 21, their parents, and professionals, featuring speakers such as: authors Victor Villaseñor and Marianne Williamson, and U.S. Forest Service supervisor Jerri Marr. Pre-registration required.

Educating Children of Color Summit
Saturday, Jan. 12, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Colorado College's Worner Campus Center, 902 N. Cascade Ave., $25 (free for students and parents)
Contact: educatingchildrenofcolor.org

Pass the baton

Gear up for July's relay race with this rally to launch Falcon and Peyton's fundraising efforts for the American Cancer Society. At the event, attendees can register for the relay, hear from community members and honor cancer survivors.

American Cancer Society Relay for Life Kickoff Event
Monday, Jan. 14, 5:30 p.m.
Sand Creek High School,
7005 N. Carefree Circle, free
Contact: 491-2902,
falconpeytonrelay.org

Be prepared

Attend this meeting with Fire Chief Rich Brown, Fire Marshal Bret Lacey and Office of Emergency Management Manager Bret Waters, who will discuss wildfire mitigation tactics, ways to prepare for an emergency, evacuation planning and more.

Wildfire Awareness and Emergency Preparedness Neighborhood Meeting
Tuesday, Jan. 15, 6:30 p.m.
Cheyenne Mountain High School,
1200 Cresta Road
Contact: tinyurl.com/bbkcu4r

For more civic and volunteer opportunities, see Listings on p. 31.

CitySage

By John Hazlehurst

Of marksmen and marketing

A few years ago, digging through boxes of miscellaneous stuff from childhood, I came across my National Rifle Association Pro–Marksman Junior Diploma, dated July 12, 1952. The certificate states that I had achieved a minimum score of 20 points on each of the official NRA targets. I was 11 years old.

My father taught me to shoot. He believed, as did most men of his era, that knowing how to shoot was like knowing how to drive — an essential component of manhood. He had a fine gun collection, which he kept in a locked third-floor room. It included a beautiful Holland & Holland 12-gauge shotgun, a Winchester .22 WRF, a .30-40 Krag, and a pair of 19th-century Colt .44 revolvers.

I learned to shoot with the .22, a perfectly balanced, extraordinarily accurate example of the gunsmith's art. It was a joy to hold and use.

To own a gun was a profoundly serious thing.

In those days, the NRA's mission was to support hunters and sportsmen, advocate for gun safety, and teach owners to care for and respect their weapons. To own a gun was a profoundly serious thing, a right to be neither abused nor taken lightly.

I wonder what my father would make of the "gunnies" of our era. Would he join them in advocating for concealed carry and for unrestricted access to light machine guns? (Yeah, I know that an AR-15 isn't technically a machine gun, but let's get real — it is.) Would he agree that American citizens need to be armed to the teeth just in case they want to overthrow the government? Would he agree with a Supreme Court that, in *McDonald v. Chicago*, prevented local jurisdictions from forbidding handgun possession?

A few years after I'd done him proud at the rifle range, my father died of emphysema. An asthmatic, he had never smoked, but he had spent his life beset by secondhand smoke. My mother smoked, as did most of their friends. Did that environment hasten his early death? I suspect so.

In the 1950s, cigarettes were marketed as fun and life-enhancing — a way to celebrate life, not shorten it. Thanks to brilliant marketing and canny exploitation of social change, cigarette use climbed from 5 percent of the population smoking 100 or more cigarettes a year in 1900, to 50 percent of men and 33 percent of women in 1965. By 2006, consumption had fallen back to 21 percent of the population.

Tax and regulatory policy contributed to the decline, but most of the change came through the gradual seepage of facts into public perception. Cigarette smokers weren't the movie stars, rugged cowboys or professional baseball players depicted in magazine ads. They were pitiable addicts, wheezing and smelly, robbed of health and life by remorseless corporate profiteers.

The triumph of gun rights is, like the triumph of the tobacco industry, a marketing phenomenon. Guns make you safer; guns are cool; guns don't kill people; when guns are illegal, only criminals will have guns; and so on *ad infinitum*. Despite all evidence to the contrary, tens of millions of Americans have been suckered into believing that a home with guns is a safer home.

When concealed-carry was first legalized in Colorado Springs, a lot of my geezer pals rushed to get permits. It seemed cool at first, but as geezer **Jim** told me recently, it got old pretty quickly.

"Guns are heavy, inconvenient and dangerous," he said. "And they're not like cell phones — you can't leave them in your coat pocket, or forget them in a restaurant."

In its current incarnation, the NRA wields enormous political power, just as Big Tobacco did a few decades ago. Politicians knew the facts then, but fear kept them quiet.

The facts about guns are simple. Owning a handgun or an assault weapon doesn't make you safer — in most cases, it makes you less safe. Your AR-15 is not a symbol of freedom, but a symbol of your own shallowness or paranoia.

You can still buy cigarettes if you so choose — but relatively few Americans do.

It may take years for attitudes to change, and for the gun epidemic to subside. But it will. A decade from now, there may be no more billboards advertising gun shows in Colorado Springs. And that won't be because our oppressive government has outlawed guns.

It will be because there aren't any buyers.

— hazlehurst@csindy.com

I am for the child who has attended eight schools in four years. Because she's in foster care. Because her birth mother, debilitated by mental illness, neglected her. That is the child I am for. And because I am, she will be half as likely to languish in foster care, and that much more likely to find a safe, permanent home. I am a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer.

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StreetSmarts

Speak for yourself

Politicians love to preface their pronouncements with phrases like "The American people think... ." But the disconnect appears to be growing between what politicians say and what the average American believes.

Adam Wade of ***downtown*** is a ***financial adviser***

How closely did you follow the fiscal-cliff psychodrama? Really close. Part of my job is gathering information and being informed about all that.

What's your take on the outcome? It was a patch. The larger issues weren't resolved. There's a lot of uproar ahead.

Describe national politics today in a word. Screw job.

What, in your view, is to blame for that? Selfishness. Putting individual benefit before the larger good.

How hopeful are you that the new Congress will be more effective? I'm hopeful, but I'm not optimistic. It remains to be seen whether we make the decisions we need to make proactively, or make them abruptly.

Elise Reuter of ***Peregrine*** is a ***student ambassador for Sony***

How closely did you follow the fiscal-cliff brouhaha? Not very. Some sort of agreement was inevitable.

What's your take on the outcome? Things'll probably get worse before they get better. We're in for some rough going.

Describe our present political state in a single word. Gridlock.

Who's to blame? Extremists. There's not enough moderate middle.

Will the new Congress be more effective? I sure hope they learned something from last year. I'm not real hopeful, though.

If you were president, what'd be your first step to turn things around? Get advice from every source possible.

Donna Nunez of ***the west side*** is a ***receptionist and voice teacher***

Did you follow the fiscal-cliff brouhaha? Only passively. It was largely a panic created by the media. I didn't feel personally endangered.

Describe the outcome. I'm disappointed. There was a lot of corporate bailout in the package.

Characterize the state of this country's politics in one word. Corporatized.

Who or what is to blame? Media. It no longer reflects legitimate citizen input. It has handed dialogue over to outside parties with corporate agendas.

Are we headed for economic catastrophe? Our economy is so engineered that a devastating collapse could probably be averted. It's certainly possible, though.

Will the new Congress be any more effective? I don't foresee anything changing.

*— **Bob Campbell***

This article is underwritten by The Freethinkers of Colorado Springs which is solely responsible for its content

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Please note that the Freethinkers of Colorado Springs has changed their monthly meeting night from the fourth Wednesday of every month to the third Thursday of every month – and that starting in January 2013, FTCS meetings will again occur regularly at the Tim Gill Center for Public Media at 318 East Costilla in Colorado Springs.

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The Freethinkers of Colorado Springs thank you for your past, present, and future assistance, attention, comments, donations, feedback, suggestions, and support.

LowDown

By Jim Hightower

Fiscal cliff bill is full of ugly

Well, finally — in the 11th hour and 59th minute — Republicans and Democrats negotiated a fiscal reform package, which they touted as the "American Taxpayer Relief Act."

But if you had been allowed to peek behind the curtain during the deal-making, you would've noticed that the Dems and Repubs were not alone — and some taxpayers were getting extra-special relief.

Captain Morgan, Bacardi and other Caribbean rum peddlers, for example, were at the table, picking up a half-billion-dollar-a-year liquor subsidy; NASCAR wheeled in to win a multimillion-dollar loophole for building racetracks; railroad conglomerates hauled off a $165-million bundle for maintaining their own tracks; Disney and other fabulously wealthy Hollywood studios reeled in a $75 million subsidy for making movies; and Big Coal mined the negotiations for a federal giveaway to buy safety equipment and provide safety training for their workers.

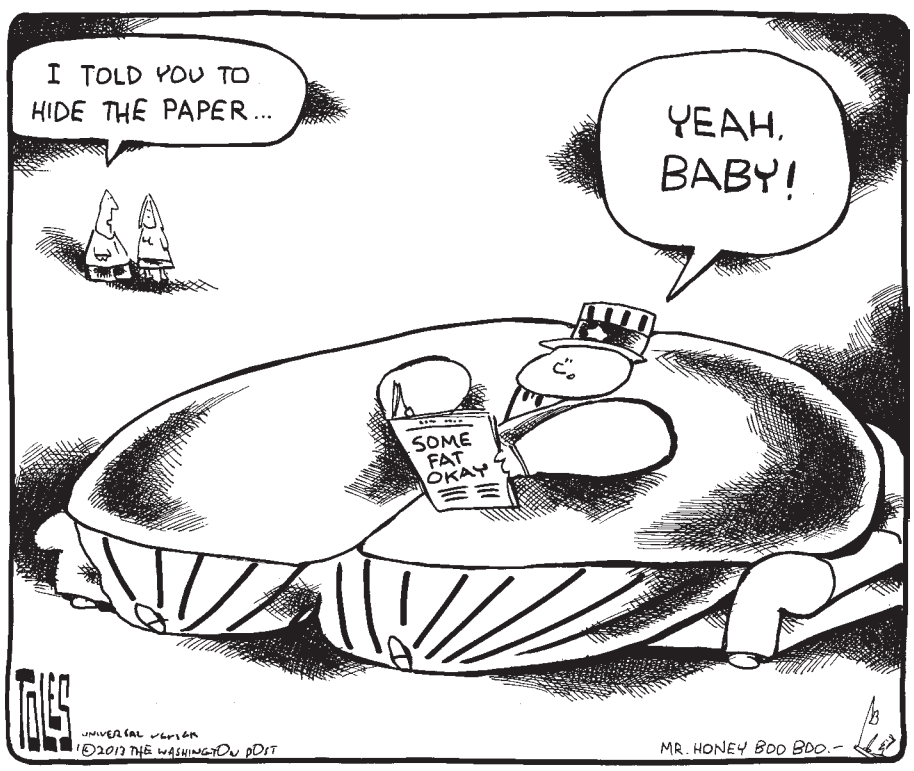
A $9 billion subsidy for moving more U.S. jobs to foreign countries.

But the big dogs in the room, as usual, were Wall Street hucksters. Tucked inside the "reform" bill is Sec. 322, opaquely titled "Extension of subpart F exception for active financing income." In plain English, that line of gobbledygook will move $9 billion this year from our public treasury into the already overflowing coffers of Bank of America, Citigroup, JPMorgan Chase and other fiefdoms of high finance.

Worse than the giveaway, however, is the provision's purpose. As explained by the excellent watchdog group, Citizens for Tax Justice, Sec. 322 essentially underwrites the financing of corporate offshoring — a $9 billion subsidy for moving more U.S. jobs to foreign countries.

Italians have a useful phrase that applies here: Cui bono — Who benefits? Yes, this Republican-Democrat compromise has some good provisions, but deep inside, it's the same old corporate ugliness.

Jim Hightower is the best-selling author of* Swim Against the Current: Even a Dead Fish Can Go With the Flow*, on sale now from Wiley Publishing. For more information, visit jimhightower.com.



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BetweentheLines

By Ralph Routon

Ferrandino: Dems' busy leader

Spend an hour with **Mark Ferrandino**, and you quickly understand why the Denver state representative has risen to become speaker of the Colorado House.

You don't think about the fact that he's only 35, or that he's the first openly gay state House speaker. You forget the fascinating details of his life, how he rose from being in special-education classes until fourth grade to a master's degree in public policy, excelling as a pole vaulter and in playing the trumpet (which he still does).

Those details don't matter, though, when we discuss what to expect from the 2013 General Assembly, which convenes this week. As Ferrandino describes the Democrats' House agenda, outlining top priorities (jobs and education) as well as stickier issues (marijuana and gun control), it becomes obvious how perfectly suited Ferrandino is for his position.

He knows every nuance of every critical bill on the Legislature's plate. He answers each question with a smooth, easygoing demeanor, not condescending in any way. His expertise as a charismatic leader comes across so thoroughly, you soon realize why many observers believe Ferrandino has only begun to tap his political potential.

There will be plenty of big stuff to tackle down the line.

Could he become Colorado's next governor? Or, with just two years before he's term-limited in the House, might he first move up to run for the state Senate? Or, who knows, someday Congress?

What's more important in the months ahead will be how adeptly Ferrandino can operate with Democrats in charge of the state House and Senate, along with having Gov. **John Hickenlooper** as Colorado's chief executive.

Many Republicans assume the Dems already have a complete battle plan put together by the triumvirate of Hickenlooper, Ferrandino and Senate President **John Morse** of Colorado Springs. Listen to Ferrandino, and you realize that's not the case. He'll work with the governor on some issues, but he and Morse don't have a synchronized strategy. For now, Ferrandino cares more about making other lawmakers look good, as he did in our visit by allowing local Reps. **Pete Lee** and **Tony Exum** to outline their early-filed bills.

If there's a common thread in Dems' plans, it's bringing back and refining legislation that didn't make the House floor when Republicans were in charge. One example is Lee's "economic gardening" bill to help small businesses, which has worked in many other states, and another giving preference to Colorado companies in awarding state contracts. Exum is pushing bills to assist unemployed veterans in finding work and to help jobless people avoid draining their savings before qualifying for unemployment benefits.

"We're making an effort to use our majority more in alignment with issues that people care about," Ferrandino says. In response to calls for tougher gun-related laws, he talks about focusing on mental heath, not taking guns from people.

Rest assured, civil unions will come up, but not as a lightning-rod issue. Ferrandino stresses that the same bill would've passed last year if GOP leaders (then with a thin House majority) hadn't maneuvered to kill it. For the record, this legislation would not legalize gay marriage — it would allow civil-union partners to have basic rights, such as shared insurance and access to hospital visits.

Ferrandino says neither party wants to move too fast with many bills, for one reason. Of the House's 65 members, 27 (more than 40 percent) never have been lawmakers. So the agenda will move slowly "until everyone gets a better sense of their footing."

There will be plenty of big stuff down the line. After the governor's bipartisan marijuana task force makes its recommendations in late February, the Legislature must decide how to implement Amendment 64. And the state budget must wait until after the March revenue forecast, which Ferrandino sees as fortunate because "we also can wait to see what happens in Congress and then react to it."

It all sounds so sensible. If Ferrandino has his way, this Legislature won't be about confrontation and acrimony. He wants consensus, not Democrats ramming their wish list down everybody else's throat.

If he can do that, we'll be hearing a lot more about Mark Ferrandino for years to come.

— routon@csindy.com

News

Not-so-happy meal

Poor locals are lovin' one downtown restaurant, but the feeling's not always mutual

By J. Adrian Stanley

Just after 8:30 p.m. on Oct. 18, Colorado Springs police heard of a disturbance at the McDonald's at 207 N. Wahsatch Ave. The official police log isn't clear as to whether an employee or a customer first called it in, but leaves little doubt as to the issue at hand.

"[Employee] stated she was informed by her boss to spray disinfectant and antibacterial spray in order to keep customers coming due to the overwhelming smell and odor of transients that enter," the log reads. "[Employee] stated that a group of people were offended by this and began arguing with her in an overly aggressive manner."

Bryan Oller

Bob Holmes: 'It's like Starbucks for homeless people.'

Two of the "offended" were Richard and Laura McClenan who say they were shocked when an employee began spraying along every aisle. "It was a very passive-aggressive way of saying, 'You guys stink,'" Richard says. "... [The homeless customers] just sat there and took it. They wanted to be warm."

Laura, a military veteran who has severe asthma and PTSD, wasn't as calm: She covered her face and ran for the door. Richard, who is active-duty military, ran after his wife. Another couple and several college-age people followed, complaining loudly.

Richard then confronted the employee, who, he says, refused to give her full name, claimed to own the restaurant, and told him, "If you don't like it, you can leave." Upon arrival, police calmed the situation, but said they could do nothing else.

According to Bob Holmes, executive director of the homeless organization Homeward Pikes Peak, this McDonald's has for decades been a friendly place for the downtrodden: "It's like Starbucks for homeless people," he says.

But at least on this day, you could chalk it up as one of a growing number of sites — from the outlawed "Tent City" to the anti-panhandling downtown core — where the Springs' least fortunate were less than welcome.

A tough job

On a chilly Wednesday evening a couple months later, the Wahsatch McDonald's is packed. A friendly young woman, brown hair whipped back into a bun, takes orders with a grin. Food moves quickly.

The '50s-style dining area houses about a dozen noshing homeless people. Bags and suitcases sit next to tables of burgers and fries. Loud, convivial conversations are laced with eyebrow-raising language. The more social eaters wander around, striking up conversations with old buddies.

Over about 45 minutes, employees take several orders from this group, and one from a family that looks warily at the crowd, grabs their order and leaves. The only other diner is a young man, school books spread across the table, obliviously staring at his phone.

A nighttime peek into the nearby dining rooms of a Taco Bell, Wendy's and Taco Star do not reveal a similar scene.

The Wahsatch McDonald's is owned by L & S Enterprises No. 2, which owns six McDonald's in the Springs, and two in Fountain. Brent Louzon, a franchisee supervisor who doesn't oversee the Wahsatch location, says simply that he knows managing that store is "tough, to be honest." Customers, he says, complain about homeless people often there.

Asked for more detail, an official McDonald's spokesperson sends only a written response: "At McDonald's we treat all of our customers with respect and [courtesy]. It is McDonald's practice to call the police if any unlawful activity takes place on McDonald's property or puts the safety of our employees and customers at risk."

Conversations are laced with eyebrow-raising language.

'Number-one priority'

Following the spraying incident, Laura McClenan was upset enough to approach El Paso County Public Health, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the McDonald's franchisee's main office, and corporate.

According to McClenan, OSHA, like the police, said this just wasn't its department. An upper-level manager in McDonald's sent Richard (not Laura) a letter that included an apology, assurance that she would follow up with employees, and two coupons. "Your call serves as a valuable reminder that our customers are our number-one priority," it reads, in part.

Reached by the *Independent*, Public Health employees note they actually received two complaints about the spraying incident, that they contacted McDonald's in response, and have received no further complaints. If a second incident unfolded, employees say, they would look further into whether the spraying could be a code violation.

A Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment spokesperson says that no specific state rules address the spraying of disinfectant in a dining room.

Laura says an insurance adjuster, representing McDonald's, also called her. She says she refused to discuss the issue, because she wasn't interested in money. Laura has a frequently homeless adult daughter who suffers from severe mental illness, and says she simply wants McDonald's staff to treat homeless people more kindly.

She's particularly perturbed because this isn't the first time she's complained. More than a year ago, she sent another complaint to the restaurant manager. In that Oct. 20, 2011 letter, Laura noted that while most McDonald's employees and managers were courteous to customers, a manager had told her, and others, that there was a limited time they could stay in the dining room. She also ignored customers at the counter, and even booted people out, including a gentle veteran in his 80s.

"People say, 'Well, this is a very rough McDonald's because it's downtown,'" Laura says. "OK, rough? Rough why? Because we have all these homeless people who come here? You know what? It looks like the homeless people are buying a lot of the food. And the homeless people, they have a right to eat, too."

— stanley@csindy.com

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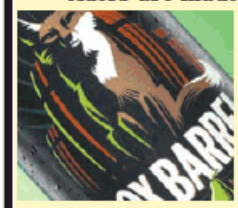

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News

Teachable moment

Councilors start backing a third-party Waldo review

By Pam Zubeck

A U.S. Forest Service account of its actions during the Waldo Canyon Fire points out that fires like these have become the norm, not an aberration.

"The Waldo Fire was a perfect example of the type of wildland urban interface fires that have been consistently occurring for the past 10 years and will be occurring for the foreseeable future," the report says. "These wildland fires cross many jurisdictional and political boundaries."

Rhonda Van Pelt

Teamwork helped locals endure the fire; it would also help agencies fight the next one.

It's with that reality in mind that Scott Hente has decided the city's internal after-action review of the catastrophe, which claimed two lives and 345 homes on June 26, isn't enough. While that report, due in March, is "a good first step," the City Council president says leaders "need to consider all the aspects and all those involved in fighting it so if this happens again, we have the ability to respond from a multi-jurisdictional aspect."

Hente joins El Paso County Sheriff Terry Maketa and Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper in calling for an unbiased, third-party review. Council President Pro Tem Jan Martin and Councilor Lisa Czelatdko now also say they support one.

"I think we will miss an opportunity to address future community tragedies without a third party helping us to [assess] how the fire was handled," Martin says via e-mail. "We are still at risk for another fire and we owe it to the citizens to learn from the Waldo Canyon Fire and be even better prepared next time."

Indeed, in addition to city-level problems the *Independent* cited last month ("Misfire," cover story, Dec. 12), the Forest Service report mentions other Waldo issues, to include:

- "too many agencies trying to accomplish the same things [in communications] without working with each other";
- "getting orders through [the National Interagency Coordination Center in Boise] in a timely fashion";
- and agencies providing resources "not under the command of the [Incident Management Team]."

It also notes that at one point, the Type 1 leadership team had to confer with three different military branches before reaching an agreement that enabled "military aircraft [to] contribute to the suppression effort."

Mayor Steve Bach has been cool toward a third-party review; as recently as Dec. 17, he said he was "satisfied" with the city's internal process. But last week, he told FOX 21 News that he'll consider an outside review if the city's report doesn't answer the "many questions that we have asked."

In that interview, Bach also expressed concern for the first time publicly about the chaotic, last-minute evacuation of Mountain Shadows. "I have a question on why we evacuated the balance of Mountain Shadows as late as we did," he said. "I've gotten all kinds of responses from the federal Incident Commander, from the Forest Service and from our own city officials on that. But it still bothers me."

Like Bach, the Colorado Springs Professional Firefighters Local 5 wants to see the city's report before backing an external review. But president Jeremy Kroto says via e-mail the group is "committed to turning over every stone and shedding light on all aspects of the incident." If the city's report fails to properly address firefighter concerns, Kroto says, "We'll take the necessary steps to ensure that our collective voice as professional fire fighters is heard."

Maketa, who plans to release his own report this month, calls a third-party review "invaluable" for local agencies and the West. He's ready to pitch in $100,000 toward the review, which national experts say might cost up to $250,000.

Given the number of agencies involved, Hente and Martin suggest a grant could help fund the review.

— zubeck@csindy.com

Noted

News briefs from the Front Range

Crouse sues Springs

On Dec. 27, medical marijuana patient (and leukemia sufferer) Bob Crouse filed a lawsuit against the city of Colorado Springs and the El Paso County Sheriff's Office. He's seeking compensation for the 55 marijuana plants and 6.5 pounds of matter that were confiscated by the Colorado Springs Police Department in the course of an investigation, and allegedly not returned in good health, as mandated by Amendment 20.

"I'll be very brief," says local defense attorney Clifton Black, who is serving as one of Crouse's lawyers. "We just feel that our client should be compensated for the damage to his property."

Though Black was spare with details about the case, including the amount sought, it came out in Crouse's June trial — in which he was acquitted of charges of cultivation and distribution of marijuana — that the marijuana was valued at roughly $307,000.

The city's communications department, the city attorney's office and CSPD all failed to respond to multiple requests for comment. — ***BC***

Election battles loom

Competition is shaping up in several of the six Colorado Springs City Council districts that will be filled in the April 2 election. Here's the rundown as of Tuesday morning of those who have declared an intent to run:

District 1, northwest: Incumbent Tim Leigh, elected to a two-year at-large term in 2011, is running to replace term-limited Scott Hente. Joe Barrera, a diversity and education consultant, is also running.

District 2, north: Incumbent Angela Dougan is seeking re-election.

District 3, southwest: Lisa Czelatdko holds this seat, and hasn't announced a re-election bid. Declared candidates are former El Paso County Commissioner Jim Bensberg and former state legislator Keith King. (Incumbent at-large councilor Brandy Williams also lives in this district but hasn't yet declared.)

District 4, south and southeast: Incumbent Bernie Herpin finds himself in another district, due to redistricting. Announced candidates include retired Air Force veteran Dennis Moore, Harrison School District 2 Board President Deborah Hendrix, and convicted felon and leadership-development business owner Gary Flakes (see Ranger Rich, p. 47).

District 5, the city's central area: Candidates for this new district include incumbent Bernie Herpin, nonprofit administrator Jill Gaebler, the Rev. Al Loma, and Roger McCarville, a semi-retired apartment owner.

District 6, northeast and east: Pastor David Moore and retired small-business owner Ed Bircham are vying for another new seat.

To run, candidates must gather 50 signatures of Springs voters by Feb. 6. — ***PZ***

Harbor House reincarnated

Since 2004, the Harbor House Collaborative has been providing help for Colorado Springs substance abusers.

The agency has seen bumps in the road, culminating with a financial crisis in early 2012 and the exit of its executive director, Lyn Harwell. Since then, Bob Holmes, executive director of the umbrella agency Homeward Pikes Peak, has been helping Harbor House try to right its ship.

But this winter, strained by juggling two organizations, Holmes gave Harbor's board an ultimatum: Either allow Homeward Pikes Peak to take over, or do without his help. The board agreed to the former. Harbor dissolved Dec. 31 and was reborn as part of Homeward Pikes Peak on Jan. 1.

Holmes has combined the two organizations' approximately $500,000 annual budgets, bringing his new budget to around $1 million. Through cost efficiencies, he's expecting to make Harbor, which is run with federal and state grants and contracts, self-supporting. First, though, he's working to retire tens of thousands in debt.

The good news: Harbor's inpatient and outpatient clients won't likely notice a difference.

"With something like this," Holmes says, "what you want is as little noticeable change as possible for the clients." — ***JAS***

Grant Farms goes Chapter 7

Wellington's Grant Family Farms, Colorado's first certified organic farm, has declared Chapter 7 bankruptcy, citing financial hardships. Among those listed in a media release: "Ineligibility for crop insurance coupled with millions of dollars in damage from hail storms and drought — not to mention a massive spinach recall ..."

As noted by the *Denver Post*, the farm, which went organic in the mid-'70s, had also filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in 2006. But Grant's six-year-old community-supported agriculture program was up to an impressive 5,300 members last year (793 of them from Colorado Springs), with hubs ranging from Pueblo to Cheyenne, Wyo. Between 2007 and 2011, the farm reports, it donated more than a million pounds of food to regional food banks.

The release, issued by "the voice of the Grant Family, the Farm, and the CSA team," notes that "The Farm is working hard and is hopeful that it will emerge from this disappointing situation better than it went in." Otherwise, it cited a hesitancy "to offer any specifics with regard to tomorrow."

An overview of Colorado's Chapter 7 bankruptcy specifics, provided online by Denver's McFarland Law Group, says that roughly three months after filing, one will usually receive a cancellation of "most types of debts and emerge from bankruptcy with all or most of the property" owned beforehand. — ***MS***

Compiled by Bryce Crawford, Matthew Schniper, J. Adrian Stanley and Pam Zubeck. For more briefs, visit csindy.com.

Council mulls four ballot proposals

Voters might be asked in April to increase City Council pay, amend the Trails, Open Space and Parks tax measure to allow a greater share for parks maintenance, put Council in charge of Springs Utilities contracts, and make the city attorney an elective office.

Councilors on Monday asked City Attorney Chris Melcher to bring language for three of the four measures to the Jan. 22 Council meeting. (The parks measure was on the agenda for Tuesday's meeting, which happened after press time.) There they will accept public comment on the measures and decide whether to refer any of them to the ballot for the April 2 city election.

The pay proposal calls for Councilors to get 40 percent of the mayor's $96,000 annual salary, or $38,400. They're now paid $6,250 a year.

"Right now, the vast majority of people can't serve because of the compensation," says *Independent* publisher John Weiss, who's backing the measure. Voters have rejected increases in Council pay three times in the past 20 years.

Kin Scott

City Attorney Chris Melcher

The city attorney and Utilities measures are proposed by Kanda Calef, a homemaker and political activist who's been labeled a lobbyist by Councilor Tim Leigh and Mayor Steve Bach. Saying that designation is inaccurate, Calef told Leigh on Monday, "I'm insulted that I'm not able to hold my Council and my mayor accountable without false statements being made against me."

Calef argues the city attorney finds himself with conflicting interests when serving the mayor, who appoints him and can fire him, and Council, whose legal interests might differ from the mayor's. She also wants Council to have authority over all Utilities contracts. When the city Charter was rewritten in 2010, the mayor was given authority over all city contracts, although he has no other power over Utilities.

— ***Pam Zubeck***

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News

A complete wreck

Dubious prosecution leaves an innocent man handcuffed to $40,000 in legal fees

By Chet Hardin

David Lee is deep in debt.

"I tapped out all of my retirement; my grandmother tapped out her retirement," says the 26-year-old soldier. "Sold two family heirlooms, sold a couple of antiques and had to get three or four loans. So my credit is shot right now, and I have no money."

Courtesy Steve Rodemer

The truck owned by David Lee (right) struck a concrete barrier at 70 miles per hour and flipped end over end.

On the plus side, he won't be going to prison.

On March 6, 2011, Lee went out drinking with his two buddies, Adam Sheffler and Robert O'Donnell. The night started downtown, then the guys moved on to Copperhead Road Honkey Tonk Saloon.

Lee says he was the designated driver. When it was decided to end the night at a friend's house, he drove there. *Then* he started drinking.

"But I told them, if I start drinking, we're staying there," he remembers. "And I got pretty hammered." From there, he says, "I fell asleep on the couch. And I woke up in the hospital."

Sufficient evidence?

Lee spent a day and a half in a medically induced coma as both of his hips were repositioned, an excruciating ordeal. Due to atrophy, one of his legs is now three inches shorter, and he walks with a limp.

He doesn't remember the accident, but according to his attorney, Steve Rodemer, it happened when Lee's truck was traveling southbound on Centennial Boulevard, between Garden of the Gods Road and Fillmore Street, and hit a concrete barrier at 70 miles per hour. It flipped end over end.

Sheffler was found dead in the passenger seat. O'Donnell was also seriously hurt, Rodemer says, and found in the driver's seat. Lee was in the back seat.

Yet Lee was the one who would be charged with two counts of vehicular homicide and two counts of vehicular assault, all felonies, along with DUI and reckless driving charges. He was looking at over a decade in prison.

Rodemer still doesn't understand it. Granted, the truck belonged to Lee. And his DNA was on the lone airbag, which deployed in the driver's seat.

But O'Donnell's DNA was also on the bag. And Lee's DNA was the only DNA in the back of the vehicle. (Rodemer says Lee's DNA made it up front to the airbag because emergency medics pulled him out of the truck that way.)

Plus, while Lee had only suffered lower-body injuries, O'Donnell had significant head lacerations, a broken clavicle, injuries to his elbow, and abrasions consistent with airbag burns, according to Rodemer.

Lee says that he and O'Donnell, his former roommate, haven't spoken "more than six words" since Lee was charged. (The *Indy* was unable to reach O'Donnell for this story.) But neither Lee nor Rodemer is claiming that O'Donnell must have been the driver; in an accident of this intensity, they know it can be difficult to piece together what happened.

"There is some dispute, my experts say," says Rodemer. "The guy in the passenger seat [Sheffler] could have been driving."

As for Lee, though? A local jury returned a "not guilty" verdict in a half-hour, says his attorney.

"I've never seen that happen in a vehicular homicide case, where there were three experts that testified over the course of five days," says Rodemer, a former DUI prosecutor in the 4th Judicial District.

According to Lee Richards, spokeswoman for the DA's office, the prosecutors stand by their filing decision, though she won't go into detail. O'Donnell won't be charged, she says, because the office lacks sufficient evidence.

No recourse

Lee spent $40,000 to defend himself — half on Rodemer, and half on his experts.

"This isn't right," Rodemer says. "It isn't fair for this kid to pay $40,000 to defend a case that he never should have had to, when a little common sense could have prevented this whole thing."

Rodemer has filed a notice of government claim, and is exploring ways to recoup some of this cost. However, he says, "there's no mechanism for [Lee] to recover that."

At the federal level, a judge can order the prosecutor to pay the court costs if "the court finds that the position of the United States was 'vexatious, frivolous, or in bad faith.'" There is no state equivalent to that federal law, according to Dan Schoen, the executive director of the Colorado Criminal Defense Bar.

"There are a lot of protections given to [state] prosecutors," Schoen explains. "If it's misconduct, [the protection is] not there, but if you make a good-faith error, or just can't prove beyond a reasonable doubt your case, it's a very high bar ... and intentionally so."

Here's how Lee sees it: "If I had lost, I would have had to pay all their stuff. I got to find a way to get that money back."

And he's not likely to be rolling in dough anytime soon. Once he gets his honorable discharge from the Army, Lee says, he has a job lined up on a horse ranch in Delaware.

— chet@csindy.com

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The face of REVENGE

Awash in 'honest' porn, Colorado Springs' Craig Brittain reigns as one of the most hated men on the Internet

By Chet Hardin

She realized something was wrong when she found a dozen "friend" requests on Facebook from men she didn't know. Then she received a text message from an unknown number, alerting her to a website featuring pictures of her.

After messaging back-and-forth with this seemingly helpful stranger, then doing a little research, she learned more about revenge porn than she'd ever wanted.

Revenge porn, or involuntary porn, has been around since the days of dial-up, and the formula hasn't really changed: A jilted person, usually a guy, will get revenge on his ex by sharing once-private nude photos or videos online. Thanks to adult chat rooms, Craigslist and sexting, the catalog of images grows daily.

Is Anybody Down? is just one of the latest websites attempting to capitalize on this phenomenon, acting as an organized and permanent repository for these shots. The site allows users to submit photos and videos of anyone, which then are inserted into dating-site-style profiles. They include subjects' names and city of residence, and screen shots of their social media pages, such as Facebook or LinkedIn.

Phone numbers, too, are often included. So while some profiles attract garden-variety comments — "I am look [sic] for a Saturday night hookup on a regular basis that must be discrete" — others venture out of the purely online realm.

"You are beautiful, I texted you today, get back to me so we can talk." Or, "Would love to soak them little tittays with some sticky man-love batter. Ima go call her!"

For convenience, the women are separated by state and country. (While the site does include some men and also couples, we're electing to refer to the victims at large as women since they are featured in the vast majority of profiles.) Using porn-style tags, the site further catalogs the women: black, Asian, bi, horny sluts, lesbian and so on. They may also be assigned to novelty categories: "Your Mom's Nudes" is dedicated to older women; "Beast of a Feast" is where overweight women go; and "Herps Confirmed" is for those who supposedly have an STD.

The submissions that wind up in "Anonymous Bounty" are incomplete, and include appeals to site visitors to help track down, say, Facebook or Twitter accounts of the featured women. This allows the site to function as a one-stop shop for a subject's personal information: where she goes to school, her children's names, her workplace. It also has the net effect of helping Is Anybody Down? rise to the top of a Google search of the woman's name.

Defenders of revenge porn argue that all this information is already available online. Critics counter that these sites deliver this information while also making women, without their express consent, subjects of sexual fixation for their friends, neighbors or bosses.

The woman with whom we spoke for this story asked us not to use her name or any identifying information. Finding her images alongside those of dozens of other Colorado women, she says, was humiliating. Frightening even, when the text conversation she was having took a predictable turn: The stranger asked her if she'd go out sometime.

She has since canceled her Facebook account and changed her phone number.

Since the site went online a year ago, there hasn't been a legal challenge, civil or criminal, mounted against Is Anybody Down?. But that could soon change. Across the country, a number of attorneys have declared war on the revenge porn industry, and they have this site in their crosshairs.

Straight outta Briargate

Craig Brittain seems to have a lot on his mind today. The 28-year-old co-founder and operator of Is Anybody Down? says his roommates are planning to move to Los Angeles.

"I have no idea why people do that," he says of the rock star-wannabes. "Having lived in L.A. for about a year, I have no idea."

'I said, "Hey, we're gonna be big by December." And what do you know?'

Bradley Flora

is Anybody Down?
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Is Brittain amoral? 'I see myself as gray,' says the 28-year-old. 'I do things that people may see as morally ambiguous, but I have a greater goal in mind.'

‘My client was so afraid, she actually borrowed a handgun.’

Brittain had chased a similar dream, he says, to no avail.

“I thought I was gonna be the big rap star, back in the day,” he says. “I moved to L.A., and lived there for six months, and ended up busing tables. I did make some money, but I got so tired of the lifestyle; it’s so plastic. It’s fake.”

There’s a picture of Brittain floating around the Internet from this time period. With spiked blond hair and a scowl, he looks determined to conquer the music industry, if not the world.

Nowadays, he blends in. Relatively short and passive with a melancholy gaze over a trim goatee, he comes off as disarmingly harmless — like a kid who spends days at home, playing video games and maintaining a website.

Which is, largely, who he is.

At the Good Company Bar and Restaurant in Briargate, where we’ve met for afternoon drinks, the bartender calls him “Craiggers.” Good Company is close to home, and Brittain often drops in for late-night karaoke, singing “Folsom Prison Blues” or “Bohemian Rhapsody.”

Karaoke, he says, “is the loudest thing I do.”

He’s happy to leave the big city to others, to people like Hunter Moore.

Moore is undoubtedly the biggest name in the revenge porn world. The 20-something, coke-fueled, California-based Lothario shocked mainstream mores with isanyoneup.com. In that site’s roughly year-long life, Moore attracted media attention from a number of national outlets, including Huffington Post, Gawker, NPR and cable’s *Dr. Drew* show. Moore seemed to enjoy all of the attention, hiring himself out for parties.

But he shut down his site in April, after

Bryan Derballa

Hunter Moore shut down his site, Is Anyone Up?, after the FBI opened an investigation.

the FBI opened an investigation. According to sources who talked with *Village Voice*, the investigation hinged on claims that someone had stolen, then provided, many of the photos that appeared on Moore’s site. Meanwhile, the famous hacker collective Anonymous had declared its own war against Moore.

It was all just too stressful, he told the press, and not fun anymore. (Moore did not reply to a request for comment for this story.) And while he has said that he’ll be starting a new site, it hasn’t happened yet.

That’s where Brittain, and his partner, Arizona-based Chance Trahan, come in.

Brittain says he and Trahan met online, back in the days of MySpace. They were both musicians who were trying to make a go of it as promoters. Brittain remembers that Trahan was working for a hardcore band from Las Vegas, and that the band got big, but fell apart. “He got out of that whole scene.” (Trahan did not respond to our request for comment.)

As for Brittain himself, he pursued numerous leads after getting his GED at 16. He says he majored in English at Pikes Peak Community College, worked for the school’s paper, and thought about journalism for a while. Promoting and music were dead ends, as was a karaoke business.

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When he and Trahan started Is Anybody Down? in December 2011, he says, it was meant to parody Moore's site and his over-the-top ethos.

"We were like, 'Wow, this is what you built, Hunter Moore? You suck,'" Brittain says.

He says that he felt Moore wasted an opportunity to "become a major enterprise."

"We sent in a whole bunch of stuff to him initially, and he wouldn't post it," he says. "There were a whole bunch of people who weren't getting posted. ...

"And we started to think, 'What happens to these submissions when he doesn't post them?' They've got to go somewhere. And we said, 'Ah ha! There's plenty to go around.'"

With Is Anybody Down?, Brittain saw a way to "get into the mainstream."

"I said, 'Hey, we're gonna be big by December.' That's what I said: 'Within a year, we're gonna be big.' And what do you know? Goal reached."

According to Brittain, the site attracts 500,000 unique visitors a month, clocking in millions of page views. Managing the site, he says, is a full-time job that provides "a decent amount of money."

Brittain argues that his site is now revenge porn's top dog, referencing the site's placement on Alexa, a service that ranks the world's websites.

Right now, Is Anybody Down? is in the Top 70,000 worldwide. Its most notable competitors, Pink Meth and yougotposted.com, haven't broken the Top 100,000; 1upem.com is at about No. 464,000.

The takedown

Of course, being an industry king has brought complications.

Last year, a hacker under the Anonymous banner "doxed" Brittain, releasing as much private and personal information about him as possible on the website Pastebin. The doxing yielded accounts of his business endeavors, including a "web design and development firm" that he says he's run with Trahan, and more personal details, such as his parents' names and the assessed value of their house. It notes that he is 5-foot-7 and smokes.

It also links to an old LiveJournal page, where Brittain apparently wrote: "still can't keep a girlfriend and I know why..... girls are evil. They're the same girls that say some bad shit about you and act like they're your friends but really they just want to stab you in the back.... It's pretty sad that they never really grow up - I've tried dating older women and they do the same damn things."

Brittain won't speak to specifics about the doxing.

While Anonymous is an inconvenient enemy, going so far as to recently publish Brittain's social security number online, people like First Amendment lawyer Marc Randazza probably pose a greater threat. Randazza, who blogs at the website The Legal Satyricon, has launched a full-scale

Protected sex

How can *any* of this be legal?

That's the question anyone new to the Brave New World of revenge porn will inevitably ask. The answer hinges on Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act of 1996, which gives broad protections to websites like Is Anybody Down? and its operator, Craig Brittain.

Essentially, the law states that a website cannot be held liable for user-submitted content. This is the same law that protects, say, Craigslist when that site's classified ads are used to traffic drugs, children and prostitutes. "No provider or user of an interactive computer service," part of the law states, "shall be treated as the publisher or speaker of any information provided by another information content provider."

That said, many in the revenge-porn biz have been accused of employing methods of content procurement that would void their Section 230 protections. For instance, maybe they use phony Craigslist personal ads to solicit photos ("content") from strangers, or hack into private photo-sharing services and use those photos for the site's content.

Even a site host who takes it upon himself to hunt down and post a subject's Facebook page could run afoul of 230, and thus attract potential civil actions, such as invasion of privacy, intentional infliction of emotional distress, or defamation.

Without addressing specifics, Brittain tells the *Independent* that he has stayed within the bounds of the law.

As for the people who actually submit photos: If they do not own the copyright, they are effectively violating copyright law, and could be vulnerable to civil action (or criminal action, if they obtained photos through hacking). But good luck finding them, says Jason Van Dyke, a Texas-based attorney.

Van Dyke alleges that his client's photos were stolen from her private Photobucket account and posted to revenge porn site Pink Meth. And the people behind Pink Meth, he says, "certainly aren't keeping records of who submits to their website."

So Van Dyke is just targeting Pink Meth itself. How? The attorney says the site negated its Section 230 protections, in part, by showing malice: When he first filed for a temporary injunction against Pink Meth, its operators made his client Entry of the Month.

— Chet Hardin

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assault against Is Anybody Down?, Brittain and Trahan, writing in October:

When it comes to porn, here are my rules:

Rule #1: The subjects must be ***adults***

Rule #2: The subjects must be ***consenting*** *adults*

If you don't break either of those rules, I am on your side. I will defend your right to make, watch, display, and sell that content.

Break either rule, and I want to hurt you for the damage you do to others.

I want to hurt isanybodydown.com. I want to hurt them bad. Who's with me?

Randazza, who is based in Las Vegas, is no prude. The attorney has made a career representing websites like Bangbus and MILF Hunter.

"I don't care if you've got a donkey fucking a priest," Randazza tells the *Independent*. "I've represented a website where all of the women were over 300 pounds. I've represented websites where everybody was over 70. I've represented websites where I've looked at their website and vomited into my trash can, I shit you not."

As Randazza wrote on his blog, the issue here is consent. What Is Anybody Down? and sites like it profit from, he argues, is the exploitation of a person who has taken a photo of themselves in a sexual manner, to be shared with the person or persons of their choice. They didn't take that picture for the entire world to see.

"Just because a girl consents to getting fucked," says Randazza, "doesn't mean that everybody gets to fuck her."

And yet, this isn't the sole reason Randazza's picked a fight with isanybodydown.com. Featured on the site is an ad for "Takedown Hammer," which purports to work on behalf of those photographed.

It goes like this: A woman finds that sexual images of her are on the site. Asking Brittain to remove them likely won't work. Even if the woman has a lawyer write a cease-and-desist letter, Brittain might just ignore it if he thinks "the submission has value to it, if it's something that people visit on a regular basis."

However, if the woman hires Takedown Hammer, for a flat fee of $250, this service will negotiate to have the submission removed.

Courtesy Marc Randazza

Randazza: Dropping the 'Hammer.'

'I want to hurt isanybodydown.com. I want to hurt them bad. Who's with me?'

Brittain says that he makes a little money from the owners of Takedown Hammer, in the way of advertising — the only advertising — on his site. The service, he says, is being provided by a former college buddy who's now a lawyer.

Randazza isn't buying it.

When the takedown service first appeared, it was called Takedown Lawyer. It was, as Randazza found, supposedly run by a New York state-based attorney named David Blade III. A quick search by Randazza found that there wasn't a registered lawyer in New York named "David Blade." Additionally, a simple domain search of the "Takedown Lawyer" website and Is Anybody Down? confirmed that both had been purchased by Brittain.

Randazza reached out to "David Blade" through the website. In the ensuing e-mail conversation, Blade wrote that "David Blade is not my real name. I operate anonymously in order to protect myself and my family. My services are not a scam — I provide the same legal services as any other lawyer specializing in IP law."

Still, Randazza thought it was bogus, and wrote as much. This intrigued Ken White, a former federal prosecutor who practices in California and is now a popular blogger with the libertarian site Popehat.

"I sent Craig Brittain an e-mail asking about David Blade," says White. "He responded, claiming David Blade was real."

White and Randazza forwarded their respective e-mail conversations to some cyber experts they know, who were able to confirm, they say, that the e-mails from Brittain and Blade were originating from the same IP address in Colorado Springs.

"Even though this is an effective way to be cruel to people," White says, "and even though he's made some money off it, there's no indication that he's gotten here via rocketry or anything."

White argues that if Brittain is behind the takedown service, he might have committed wire fraud and interstate extortion, both federal felonies. Plus, by impersonating a lawyer, he might have also violated state statute.

Pole position

Brittain seems undaunted by the legal talk.

"A lot of it's exaggerated — there are no legal violations there," he assures, though he hasn't hired an attorney for the site.

Of Takedown Hammer, he says, "It's one of my buddies. ... They invented this lawyer, and they've since changed things. But I am not responsible for it. Regardless of what anybody tells you, I don't run it."

While he does host the website on his server, the work, he says, is done by an independent third party.

"They get some of the money," he adds, "and I get some of the money."

To Brittain, the service is a humane addition to the revenge-porn formula.

"If you take what Hunter Moore was doing, the major problem is that we had people who were really upset. And they were in danger of harming themselves," he says. "If you can just pay a week's worth of money [to Takedown Lawyer] and keep your life, nobody's going to harass you."

And as far as the invasion of privacy, Brittain sloughs that off as well. He points out that the First Amendment means the *New York Post* can print a photo of a man about to die on its cover, or that FOX News can air footage of someone committing suicide.

"On my website, you will find pictures of people who are healthy and happy and smiling in most of the pictures," he says. "I'm fairly certain the dead people didn't want to have their pictures taken."

Of the people on his site, he notes, "They took the pictures themselves. They send these pictures to multiple sites." Half of the submissions on his site, he says, come from Craigslist ads. "The majority of these people sent their photos to total strangers."

Brittain likens Is Anybody Down? to a telephone pole. If you get drunk, and crash your car into that pole, you can't blame the pole; you blame yourself for being in that situation. Likewise, if your photos wind up on his site, you can't blame the site; you blame yourself for having the photos taken in the first place.

This sounds reasonable in that no one should expect digital files to forever live solely on a boyfriend's cell phone or stranger's computer. Yet the telephone pole doesn't exist solely to foil drunk drivers. It serves a separate and wholly useful function.

So what useful function does his website serve?

Brittain says Is Anybody Down? is on the cutting edge of an era of total transparency, and the de-stigmatization of sexuality. The negatives of being presented naked on his website are shortcomings of society.

"Occasionally they will get fired," he says of his subjects. "I mean, what do you care if a couple people you know see you naked on the Internet, versus 'Oh, I just

lost my job,' or 'I lost my place to stay,' or, 'Now I'm being judged for life'?

"We are headed to an era, one of the most open and tolerant eras for people's beliefs that we've ever seen, where people would accept each other regardless."

Also, it's just a way to make a "modest living." In an Oct. 31 post on Is Anybody Down's? blog, Brittain wrote:

"I really hate this job and I do not do it for revenge, to hurt people, etc., I do it because Barack Obama is the second worst President in US history (second only to Jimmy Carter). The job market is really screwed up. A talented guy like me is easily worth seven figures or more in a good economy. ... Do you know what I'd be doing with my life if it wasn't for this website? Nothing. Zilch. Zero. Back against the wall, going to interview after interview and being rejected like every other honest, hard-working American."

Lawyers and lords

Brittain says revenge porn was never supposed to be a long-term career. He'd like Is Anybody Down? to morph more into a wiki with individual listings, like phone book listings. "Then it becomes a file, where people can write what they want and edit, about people or businesses."

"I've always been a big fan of transparency," he says. "The public wants the truth, even if the truth is not as pretty. That's another reason why people come to our site, to see girls on our website versus the big porn sites. It's real. These are not girls who are stoned out of their minds. These are ordinary, everyday girls. They aren't getting paid big salaries just to fake it. It's honest. It's straightforward. It's got that transparent element."

That, Brittain says, is why it's a threat to the traditional porn sites. And *that*, he believes, is why Randazza is targeting him.

"I do believe that someone is paying him behind the scenes," Brittain says, adding, "It doesn't make sense to me that somebody who charges a $25,000 retainer would suddenly decide to work pro bono."

Randazza laughs at this allegation.

"There's a conspiracy that the entire porn industry wants to shut down this shitty little website. He's right!" Randazza says. "I met with the other porn lords, and they said, 'Do you realize that if Craig Brittain and Chance Trahan are successful with this, it will threaten our profits?'

"And, actually, a secret Jewish cabal was meeting with us at the time; they're trying to take over all of the world's currency. So me, the porn lords and the Jews got together and decided that we had to put an end to him."

Courtesy CSPD

Brittain says his 2003 felony conviction is what convinced him to stay on the right side of the law.

Actually, other attorneys have jumped into the fray. And most interviewed by the *Indy* say they are working pro bono, simply to help revenge-porn victims.

Denver-based Andrew Contiguglia says he's spoken to multiple people with profiles on Is Anybody Down?, and that he's exploring multiple legal avenues. In Texas, attorney Jason Van Dyke has filed suit against Pink Meth.

"If websites like these are not stopped," Van Dyke says, "one of these women are going to be sexually assaulted. My client was so afraid of that, she actually borrowed a handgun, because that is the level of fear."

As for the First Amendment, Van Dyke argues: "We're not talking about political speech here. Making pornography for public consumption is a sexual act, and like any other sexual act, it requires consent."

Kyle Bristow, an attorney based in Ohio, also scoffs at Brittain's claims to free-speech protections: "You don't have the First Amendment right to tortuously attack women. I don't remember a constitutional right to post naked pictures of people on the Internet."

Bristow says he's spoken with a half-dozen people whose images have been uploaded to Is Anybody Down?. He says it's difficult to find victims who want to move forward with civil complaints, as these porn sites "mostly target young females, who don't have access to the resources for legal action. They also often don't know what their rights are. They are humiliated; they are shamed. They are cyber-raped into silence. They've received hundreds of rude comments via text messages, Facebook, e-mails."

He says that he is also working on a possible case against Is Anybody Down?. While he can't talk much about it, he says, "the days of the revenge porn industry are limited, in my opinion. The house of cards is coming down."

Bristow says that he reached out to Brittain, asking him to stop doing what he's doing. "If he were smart," says Bristow, "he would just shut down his website and apologize to all of the women he has harmed."

Brittain hasn't responded.

Almost famous

A month after his 18th birthday, Brittain was racing down Academy Boulevard in his father's Subaru station wagon. A Colorado Springs policeman clocked him going nearly twice the speed limit.

The officer pursued and Brittain fled, weaving through traffic. According to the police report from the incident, once the police helicopter spotted Brittain, the patrol car backed off, maintaining visual contact.

Eventually, Brittain got caught behind a truck at a stop light, and the cop was able to pull up behind. Brittain tried to drive up onto the curb, but couldn't. Instead, as the police officer wrote, Brittain looked back at him, "put the car in reverse and back[ed] his vehicle into the right rear passenger door" of the police cruiser.

The cop jumped out, opened Brittain's car door and shouted at him to stop the car, but Brittain ignored him. As the officer tried to get the keys out of the ignition, Brittain pulled away. The officer's report reads, "I lost my footing and was only able to hold on with my hands inside the car as my legs were dragging on the ground."

Brittain drove with the policeman that way through a U-turn across all northbound lanes of Academy, to the far right southbound lane.

When it came to an end, Brittain was charged with a number of felonies, including assaulting a police officer. He was convicted of vehicular eluding with injury, a Class 4 felony, and sentenced to five years' probation and two years' house arrest.

Musing over the episode now, sipping Maker's Mark at Good Company, Brittain says he fled because he was having a panic attack. But it wasn't his first run-in with the law. His telling of his adolescence, growing up in a middle-class Air Force family, consists of a lot of hanging out, drag-racing his modified Eagle Talon down Academy, and getting into fights at Chapel Hills Mall. He was one of those kids who "went to juvie a lot," he says, "and grew up fast."

The felony, and subsequent time in house arrest, taught him his lesson: "For better or worse, I am going to behave myself. I am going to at least do something productive."

The music on the jukebox changes to Yes, and Brittain turns from personal history to rumination, leading a two-hour chat through a landscape of his personal likes and beliefs.

He has more respect for a thief than a beggar, he says. At least the thief has the courage to reach out and take what he wants; the beggar has just given up.

"I have a special thing for the Mongols. Genghis Khan? He was a pretty cool guy," he says. "Who else would come up with the idea to mount a horde of goats? ... What kind of guy do you have to be to come up with that?"

A sip of bourbon. A pause to listen to the music.

"Alexander the Great, the young king, very cool, very cool. Who else do I really like? Brutus. Brutus," he says. "I thought Brutus was a cool guy. He's like, 'Caesar, you were cool. You were my boy, but you fucked me over. So now I'm going to stab you.'"

The conversation skids through the Pittsburgh Steelers and Super Bowls to politics and media. His NPR interview, he says, was a hit-job for ratings. Jezebel hates them, but has reported on them. Gawker is ignoring them, but Buzzfeed's interested.

Locally, KRDO is interested as well, he says, as is Brian Maass at CBS4 in Denver. He figures he'll have to talk to *Westword* at some point.

Brittain clearly enjoys the attention. And the way he sees things going, he'll always be able to get it.

"I probably will be a professor eventually," he says. "After I make all the money, and get old, turn 50-something. I'll be old and gray-haired and over-the-hill, I'll be teaching English in some rural facility somewhere. And I'll be like, 'You know, I used to be a famous celebrity. Here I am in your English class, and I used to be somebody famous.'"

— chet@csindy.com

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7 DAYS TO LIVE

9W
food and drink

Speaking as one who logged 2½ years as a vegan way back when, I know how fulfilling a creative vegan meal can be — so much so that a non-vegan wouldn't bat an eye at it. It's not all rice and beans and tofu, people. Chef **Alan Roettinger** will help prove that from 6 to 7:30 this evening at **Whole Foods** (7635 N. Academy Blvd., wholefoodsmarket.com) at a free meet-and-greet. The author of *Speed Vegan*, (not to mention *A Modern Woman's Pillow Book*, an erotic love poem collection) will share pantry and preparation advice. His query: "How can we expect our body to be healthy if we tolerate an abusive relationship with our food?" **— *MS***

10TH
stage

For those who find circuses sad, we present ***Quidam***, the traveling Cirque du Soleil show that writes despair right into its story line. "Young Zoé is bored; her parents, distant and apathetic, ignore her. Her life has lost all meaning." Good times! Zoé naturally retreats into an imaginary world, and there things pick up a little bit, thanks in part to a ringmaster with a "tragically spare hairdo." And what follows is true Cirque spectacle: dancing, contortion, music, gorgeous costuming and much more. Tonight's 7:30 show at the **World Arena** (3185 Venetucci Blvd., worldarena.com) is the second of eight, running Wednesday through Sunday. Tickets run from $30.50 to $93, and you may even be glad you went. **— *KW***

11F
party

It's time to jam, folks, so make your way to the **Sangre de Cristo Arts Center** (210 N. Santa Fe Ave., Pueblo, sdcarts.org) for the first of the museum's 2013 **Festival Fridays**. Starting at 5:30, $6 gets you in the door, where you'll find "cocktails, food for all tastes and outstanding live musical entertainment," the latter, in this case, coming courtesy of Suga' Bear & the Show Time Band. All proceeds benefit the arts center, which, considering the advent of programs like Third Place in the Hoag Studio — where you can catch muralists, painters and graffiti artists working live — is as it should be. **— *BC***

12SA
music

It cost Walt Disney Studios less than five grand to make its first real Mickey film, *Steamboat Willie,* back in 1928. By comparison, Disney shelled out $4.05 billion to acquire Lucasfilm last year — and that was after buying Pixar Animation Studios and Marvel Entertainment and breaking ground on the $4.4 billion Shanghai Disney Resort. That's a Cinderella story for you, and regardless of what becomes of *Star Wars Episode VII* (slated for 2015), you have to hand it to the mega-corporation for pumping out a stream of modern classics. The Colorado Springs Philharmonic will pay tribute at 8 tonight with its Pops show, ***Disney in Concert*** at the **Pikes Peak Center** (190 S. Cascade Ave., pikespeakcenter.com, tickets: $19-$59). Expect music from movies like *Mary Poppins*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *Pirates of the Caribbean* from the orchestra, conductor Thomas Wilson and a handful of guest vocalists, along with video clips and images. **— *EA***

12SA
tradition

According to the release, a Travel Channel crew will shoot footage for a new show at today's **Fruitcake Toss** at the **Manitou Springs High School track** (401 El Monte Place, manitousprings.org). It's picked a good year, the first in which non-gas-powered compressors are being allowed into the air-powered pneumatic division. If this all sounds too high-level for what seems like an easy concept — throw your crappy holiday confection across a field and win a prize — you might want to check out all the intricacies of the now-18th annual event between 10 and 2. Your entry fee is one non-perishable food item for Westside Cares. And, no, fruitcake does not count. **— *KA***

13SU
stage

Josef K. is a 30-year-old man who's suddenly arrested by two unknown agents from an unknown government agency, set to prosecute him for an unknown crime. He's also the protagonist of Franz Kafka's epic novel ***The Trial***, which has been adapted by **THEATREdART** (128 N. Nevada Ave., theatredart.org) artistic director Brian Mann into the company's latest production, opening Jan. 11 and playing tonight at 8, and running through Jan. 27. "What we do or say has impact, even more so than in Kafka's day," writes Mann on the group's website. "Now you can get fired for writing the wrong thing on Facebook." Tickets are $5 to $10, or "free if you are currently under arrest." **— *BC***

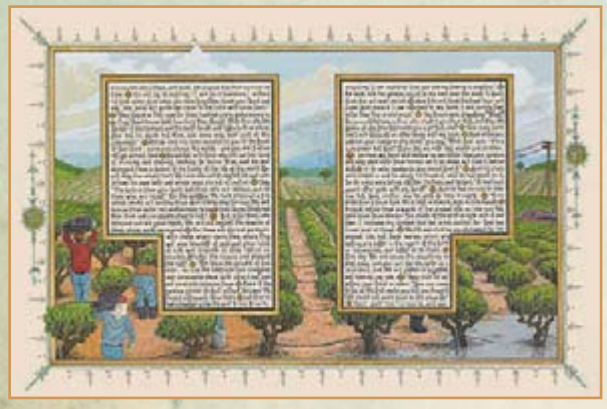
14M
art

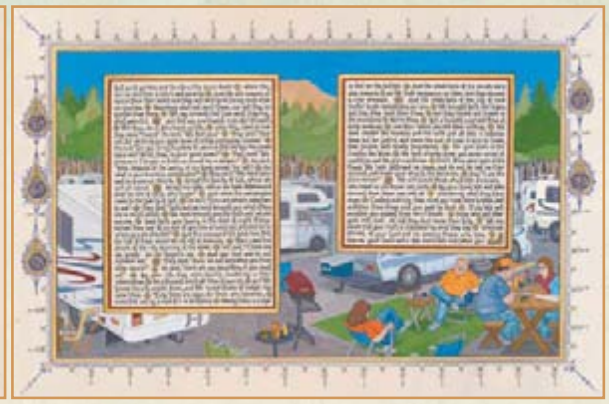
Perhaps this year's **Pots by the Pound** at **Commonwheel Artists Co-op** (102 Cañon Ave., commonwheel.com) should receive a new name. The annual sale, which began Friday, now includes "prints, jewelry, glass items, wearable fabric and much more." But be aware, while you *could* name it "Pots by the Pound, Plus," "Pots Plus, by the Pound"

Panel discussion

American Qur'an aims for interfaith approachability

By Bret Wright





First, let's get the spelling straight, and then we'll talk about the art. If you have a choice between Qur'an or Koran, go with the former — it's closer to the way it's pronounced.

With that, we can move to *American Qur'an*, an ongoing series of paintings by Sandow Birk. Over the past five years, the renowned Los Angeles artist has tapped into his own travel and research to complete works representing 108 of the 114 *suras* (chapters) of the Muslim holy book. Birk hand-transcribes the verse, using traditional guidelines (for ink colors, formatting and more) that have been passed down for centuries.

What makes it American? Well, the text is in English. But beyond that, Birk uses a kind of calligraphy he sees daily in his neighborhood: graffiti lettering. What's more, instead of traditional illuminations, the images he uses can only be described as scenes from everyday American life: office cubicles humming with workers, race-car tracks, suburban neighborhoods.

"His images are direct and very accessible," says Jessica Hunter-Larsen, curator of the I.D.E.A. Space at Colorado College. "He demonstrates that, at its core, the practice of Islam by the majority of its followers is not unknowable to us. In fact, the tenets set forth and the values promoted will seem quite familiar to viewers."

Last fall, inspired by 2011's Arab Spring events and by Robin Wright's book, *Rock the Casbah*, CC began a year of Islamic exploration with a series of films and artistic endeavors that adapted traditional Islamic themes. The *American Qur'an* exhibition, opening Jan. 21, will continue this process by bringing 83 of Birk's pieces to campus for almost two months.

The exhibit is open to the public, and Hunter-Larsen hopes people will learn something from the panels that comprise the project. She says that often Islam is discussed "only through the lens of extremism," which has led people to believe that the core of the religion is about violence and intolerance. "As with many religious faiths," she says, "the vast majority of Muslims value peace and reject extremism."

There is a little push-back from some traditionalists who see *American Qur'an* as defying the Islamic edict to spurn depiction of the human form — and potential idolatry — in art. To that, Hunter-Larsen says the exhibition "serves as a teaching tool for a non-Muslim audience," and "neither the artist, nor the presenting institutions intend to be disrespectful."

What Hunter-Larsen would like for the community to take away from the exhibition is to understand the world from another perspective. Doing this, she says, often reveals that there are more points of convergence between cultures than there are differences.

"There are elements of comfort and those of discomfort," she says of *American Qur'an*. "As a whole, the suite of images provides a range of emotional, philosophical and visual experiences."

— scene@csindy.com

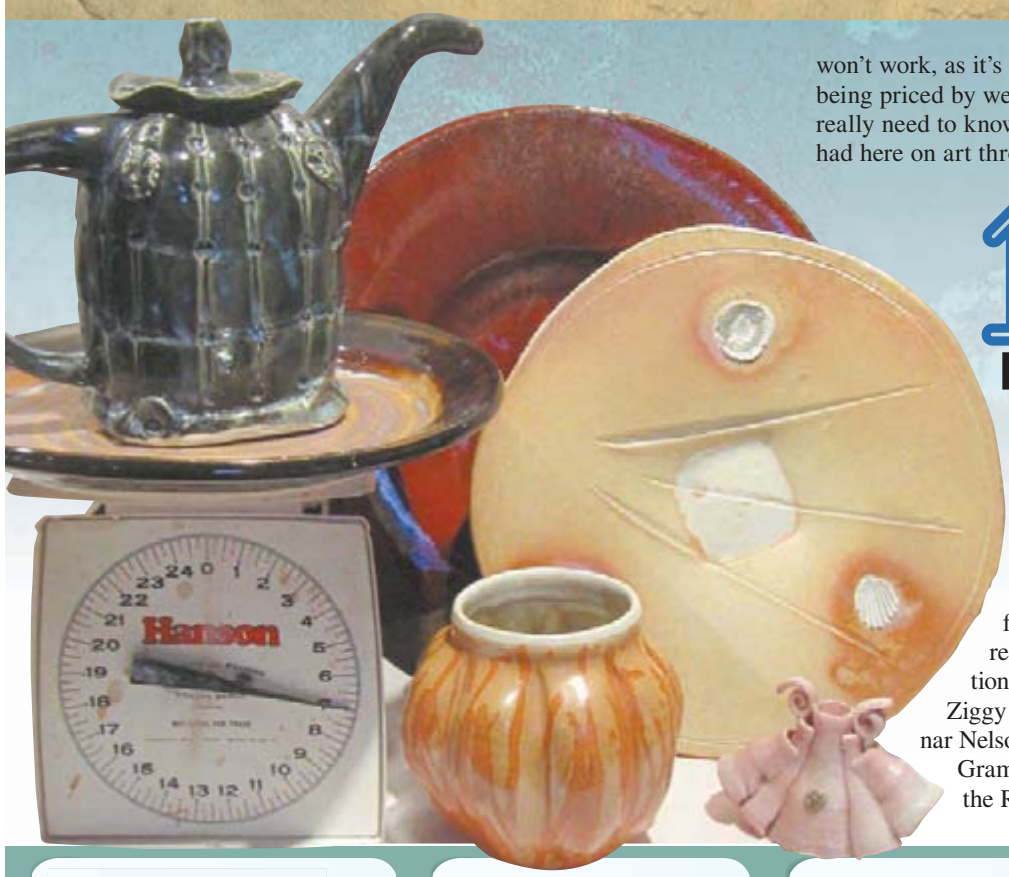
CAPSULE

American Qur'an

Jan. 21 through March 12

I.D.E.A. Space, CC's Cornerstone Arts Center, 825 N. Cascade Ave.

Free; for more, call 389-6066 or visit blog.coloradocollege.edu/ideaspace.



won't work, as it's only the pottery seconds being priced by weight. Perplexed? All you really need to know is there are great deals to be had here on art through Jan. 28. ***— KA***

15 TU

music

As scions of famous dynasties go, I'll take **Femi Kuti** over George W. Bush any day of the week. The eldest son of Afrobeat pioneer Fela Kuti has always stayed within shouting distance of his father's supremely funky roots, resisting the crossover inclinations of other famous kids like Ziggy Marley or Matthew and Gunnar Nelson. In the wake of multiple Grammy nominations and a slot on the Red Hot Chili Peppers' European tour, Femi and his band Positive Force will be storming the **Boulder Theater** (2032 14th St., Boulder, boultertheater.com) with a repertoire including songs from the forthcoming *No Place for My Dream*, which the bandleader describes as his most political album to date. Showtime is 7:30 p.m., tickets are $25, all-ages. ***— BF***

Simon Phipps

Contributors: Edie Adelstein, Kirsten Akens, Bryce Crawford, Bill Forman, Matthew Schniper and Kirk Woundy.

4Play

Other options to get you excited about your week.

Backup plan
Soul Food Junkies screening, 2 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 12 at High Prairie Library

Before you know it
Lewis Black, Jan. 19 at the Pikes Peak Center

Potato pick
Continuum series premiere, 6 p.m., Monday, Jan. 14 on Syfy

Have you heard?
Build snowflakes with your keyboard: tinyurl.com/b2deauj

Appetite

Should-be-famous Amos

A Renaissance man introduces Colorado Springs to the vibrant flavors of Bahamian cuisine

By Matthew Schniper

Amos Ferguson belongs in the kitchen.

You'll understand why after you've tasted his crisp-skinned, dry-rubbed jerk chicken; stupid-good Caribbean pork ribs; dense, herb-laced conch fritters; soft, charred barracuda steaks; tender, tangy goat curry; and sides from lightly caramelized plantains to smoked-turkey-infused collard greens. And you too will lament the fact that he's just now fulfilled his dream of opening a restaurant, called Three Delights Caribbean Grill, after spending 40-plus years across other professions.

Brienne Boortz

Amos Ferguson: two hands always busy.

The food passion began early for Ferguson, born in the middle of 11 children on Crooked Island, one of the Southernmost and most remote Bahamian landmasses.

"Where we grew up, there's not McDonald's. You have to fend for yourself — catch and cook your own food. We grew our own vegetables, raised our own animals. The only thing we bought was rice ... We never had a stove. All our food was cooked over open flame, and we used a brick oven to bake in."

Ferguson's parents separated when he was 6 and both passed away shortly thereafter, leaving him and five younger sisters in the care of his grandparents. At age 9, Ferguson began accompanying his grandmother to work inside a prestigious hotel kitchen, where he'd assist on prep work. Most of his "old island" recipes are passed down from her, and date back more than 150 years with influences from both African and European cuisines.

Dream boat

But even with such auspicious restaurant beginnings, Ferguson pursued the following crafts, trades and careers between schooling and, more recently, helping raise his own three children: certified lifeguard, scuba diver and beach activities coordinator; hairdresser and nail technician at his own beauty salon ("I can put your wife's face on her fingernail, airbrushed free-hand"); propane-generator salesman at his own company; self-employed accountant; and construction worker with certifications in welding and heavy-duty machinery operation.

It's that latter field in which Ferguson has spent much of the last six years locally, since FedEx promoted his wife Lunita and sent the family to the area. Over the last two years, he also ran a smaller version of Three Delights as a special-event mobile cart and catering business. Now that he's finally livin' the dream, he envisions restaurant expansions and many years of delighting Springs eaters, until an eventual return to the Bahamas.

"I'm not going back until I have my own 36-foot boat," he says.

That should give you ample time to eat your way through his continually updated whiteboard menu, which includes items like snapper, grouper, jerk shrimp, oxtail stew and smoked salmon, all of which I didn't even get to try yet. But it also tells you that this isn't a man who's retreated to the kitchen for some half-assed, quasi-retirement — this is a man thrilled to finally be there, all day, six days a week, with big visions.

That's the man you want delicately frying your fish, slowly smoking your meats out back over oak and apple wood, and sweet-talking you into a slice of his excellent, elusively citrusy Da fAmos Cheesecake ($3.75) with a charming boastfulness that isn't out of place behind his warm smile.

Fresh fish

It should go without saying that Ferguson makes everything from scratch, including a delicious tartar sauce, Thousand Island-like fritter dip, and two barbecue sauces (one spicy) with a surprising secret ingredient as their base. (Be nice and he might tell you.) A soon-to-come jerk sauce takes him three days of concoction and reduction, he says.

Even sides as simple as rice get added attention, picking up flavor and color from incorporated vegetables and pigeon peas cooked with salted pork. The Island Mac n' Cheese starts with real cheddar, herbs and a habañero kiss — all subtle in the final flavor. Other sides are humble, but well-prepared: corn on the cob is actually firm, green beans have crunch, friend okra meets the Southern norm, and sweet potato fries are home-style satisfying.

Ferguson butchers whole Colorado goats himself and pays a hefty price to ship in fresh fish, including the wonderful conch. That'll set you back $4.99 half dozen/$8.99 dozen in fritter form or $16.59 fried on its own, where it tastes like a more delicate, less chewy calamari under an airy batter doused in a lime squeeze.

"If I price the conch to make a profit, nobody would buy it," he says. As it is, the conch pretty much caps the dinner-plate price range, with other items as low as $10 and including two sides and drink; lunches are $7 to $10, with one side and a drink.

Above all, Ferguson wants to introduce the true flavor and culture of the Bahamas here. He's quick to tell stories about a handful of photos on the otherwise blank walls of the bright and clean former sub-shop location. The photos share inviting views of places like the pink-sand beaches on Harbour Island, and Junkanoo parade scenes. Reggae and calypso music thumps softly throughout the space, enhancing the pull to book a trip as soon as possible to the colorful, sandy paradise that obviously wants for nothing in the way of flavor. At least the way Amos depicts it.

— matthew@csindy.com

CAPSULE

Three Delights Caribbean Grill

4747 Flintridge Drive, 599-5375, threedelights.com

Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 6 p.m.

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Colorado Springs Independent
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SIDE Dish

Culinary crumbs & gastronomic gossip

Viva La Rosa

The Villa's Chris and Kerri Bohler are back in their former B&E Filling Station home at 25 State Hwy. 105, Palmer Lake, and they've brought friends.

To create **La Rosa Southwestern Dining** (368-7676), they've partnered with former B&E colleague Mike Elliott, O'Malley's Pub owner Jeff Hulsmann, and 27-year Margarita at PineCreek employee Marina La Riva.

"The basic goal is to do things fresh," Chris explains, "with the focus as a tacqueria and tequila bar."

Currently open for breakfast Sundays, dinner Thursdays through Saturdays and lunch Tuesdays through Saturdays — until a liquor license arrives and hours are expanded — La Rosa offers items like breakfast tamale plates and *caldillo*, a green chile stew with pork, potatoes and beans. Eight atypical tacos are served, ranging from a portobello mushroom or crispy chicken *chicharrón* to cumin lamb or ground buffalo.

House New Mexico-style red and green chiles (gluten-free and vegan) star, and a wide array of house *aguas frescas* (fresh juices) serve as non-alcoholic options and as margarita mixers. A newly built, beautifully backlit bar will feature around 30 tequilas, including an organic Dulce Vida on tap from an in-house oak barrel (which continues to age the product from a blanco to añejo).

Speaking to larger goals of the partnership, Chris says, "We want to make Palmer Lake into a destination dining spot ... a place where other businesses will want to be located, like a mini Manitou."

Cause and delect(able)

The longtime former home of Adam's Mountain Café at 110 Cañon Ave., Manitou Springs, which was most recently Naturally's/The Phoenix, became **Good Karma Coffee Lounge & Deli** (goodkarmacoffeelounge.com) in early November. It's operated by former Benny's owner (of seven years) Kelly Myers and her daughter Kirstin Gonyo.

Gonyo, the GM, says her mom does all the cooking, occasionally accepting "fine-tuning" input from Gonyo's brother, who is the chef at Aspen's Limelight Hotel Lounge. Karma's menu focuses on sandwiches with "all-natural" Metro Deli meats (also sold retail along with cheese, sliced-to-order), thick-cut BluePoint Bakery breads from Denver, and spreads like a homemade Portuguese mayo (a hot sauce-and-veggie-infused mayo).

Myers also bakes a variety of quiches and sweets like cinnamon rolls (alongside organic Barista Espresso products) and makes daily soups, including an always-available green chili; breakfast plates like croissant roll biscuits and gravy are served until 2 p.m. Current hours are from 10 to 5, but Gonyo says she'll likely add earlier and later hours (with dinner items and, hopefully, a liquor license) when the weather warms.

The family also aims to soon launch the Good Karma Caravan, a mobile version of the biz, likely to be located in Monument.

— ***Matthew Schniper***

APPETIZERS

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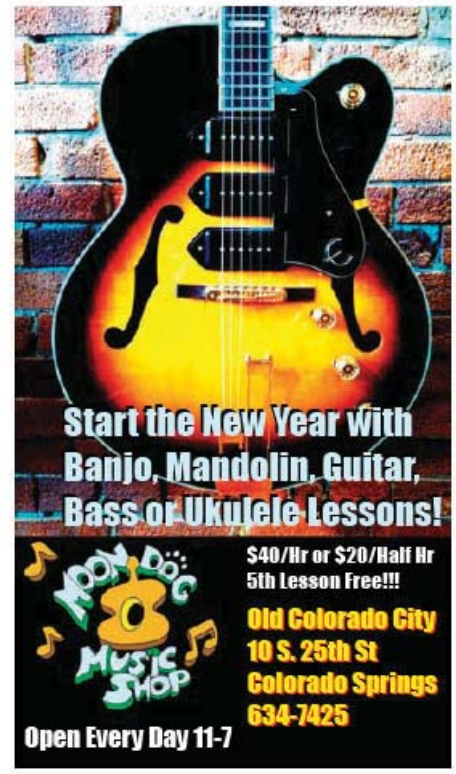

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Dine&Dash Quick takes on food and drink

The Fort Collins Brewery

1020 E. Lincoln Ave., Fort Collins, fortcollinsbrewery.com

Let's get one thing straight: Fort Collins' **Double Chocolate Stout** (around $10/four 12-ounce bottles) ain't your ChocoVine, Shirley. If you think you're buying a thick drinking chocolate, you'll be disappointed. But if you like heavy winter beer with a somewhat velvety, creamy texture and subtle flavors of mildly bitter, high-cocoa-content dark chocolate and dark-roasted coffee, with a hint of peatiness, you'll do fine.

Brewery distributor liaison Fred Winther says two pounds of Dutch-processed cocoa are used per 20 barrels, added to the brew kettle post-boil. Chocolate malts (highly toasted barley commonly used in porters and stouts) provide the color and java element. The brewery's year-round Chocolate Stout isn't brewed with cocoa, only sporting 5.3 percent ABV; this "imperialized" seasonal (sold Oct. 1 through March 1) hits 8.5 percent ABV, now in four-packs for the first time. — ***Matthew Schniper***

Benny's

517 W. Colorado Ave., 634-9309

With its curvy neon sign serving as a gateway to the west side, Benny's — the quintessential dive bar, not to mention a favorite *Indy* spot — is mere months away from its 60th anniversary. But since ownership passed to Dana Wessels in April, there's been nothing old about it. The whole bar's been redone, with one removed wall doubling space at the counter. The once-black ceiling's now covered in soothing tan tiles to match the brown and cream walls, while large flat-screens abound.

The place is becoming downright respectable, even if its **Bourbon Burger** ($8.95) still caters to the drunkest of stomachs. Sticky, sweet and sourced from Ranch Foods Direct, it gets points for smoky, grilled green peppers and gooey Swiss, but is a complete mess of heavy grease and juices. The **fried pickle chips** ($5.95) that came with ours were actually spears, underbattered and limp at that. — ***Bryce Crawford***

Bikini Xpresso

1821 N. Circle Drive, bikini-xpresso.com

Be honest: You aren't here for the drinks. That's OK. The girls, sometimes stripped down to just a thong and pasties, are all well aware of that. Hence theme days (Sexy Bunny Wednesdays, for example) and a posted shift schedule so you can plan to visit your favorite barista. Just be respectful, 'cause grabby creeps risk a pepper-spraying, no joke. (I don't speak from experience.)

The cash-only drive-thru, one of four in town, is committed to its coffee, though, turning to Monument's Serranos for its customized blend and nearly 30 flavorings via DaVinci and Ghirardelli. (Urban Steam, groan your heart out.) My **Caramel Sweety** ($4.50/16 ounces) is just that, with two shots of espresso masked by vanilla syrup and caramel sauce steamed into the milk. As liquid dessert, it's balanced enough and not overly cloying. You'll like it if toasted sugar is your thing. If not ... there's always the view. — ***Matthew Schniper***

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Open nightly at 4:00 pm. Reservations suggested. Fun fondue style! Enjoy our delicious cheese fondues, salads, succulent lobster, tender filets and mouth watering chocolates. Enjoy fabulous wines from our award-winning wine list! Dip into something different!

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jackquinnspub.com
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The Paradox Lounge
528 S. Tejon St.
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Downtown's newest martini, wine, & tapas bar. An excellent selection of wines, mixed drinks & a great tapas menu, with a large selection of martinis for the serious and casual martini drinker. Open Tues. – Sat., located at the southwest corner of the SouthSide Johnny's building.

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Culinary Boot Camp-professional, hands-on cooking classes for the aspiring chef within. From advanced knife skills to sushi-making, basic sauces to micro-regional cuisines, you'll be exposed to the latest in equipment, techniques & current trends. Kids classes available, too. Call 635-0200 for class schedule or visit www.pbcatering.com.

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Film

Incendiary introspection

***Zero Dark Thirty** (R)*

By Scott Renshaw

A lot of generally intelligent people have said a lot of dumb things about *Zero Dark Thirty*, all likely with the best of intentions. Some have argued that it glorifies torture by showing that "enhanced interrogation methods" did in fact lead to key intelligence in the eventual mission to find and kill Osama bin Laden. Others have argued the exact opposite: that it clearly indicates torture failed as an intelligence-gathering technique.

Submitted: Both sides are wrong. And also missing the point.

People can sit around discussing the rights and wrongs of wartime actions all day. But Zero Dark Thirty *takes the conversation to a whole new level.*

Zero Dark Thirty, as you've almost certainly heard, is about the work it took to track down bin Laden, up to and including the military operation that resulted in his death. That's also wrong, or at the very least profoundly insufficient as a description. Because what director Kathryn Bigelow and screenwriter Mark Boal have accomplished, while a significant act of cinematic journalism, isn't merely procedural.

It's about confronting the human side of something that seems so massive and convoluted as to be beyond humanity — whether it's for those most intimately involved, or those of us who only knew what was happening after it was all over.

The central character is CIA analyst Maya (Jessica Chastain), a fictionalized sort-of-amalgam of various real-life figures. We first meet her in 2003, visiting a "black site" where a colleague, Dan (Jason Clarke), is heading up the interrogation of an al-Qaida operative.

"If you lie to me, I hurt you," Dan repeatedly and calmly tells the chained man — and we see plenty of graphic evidence that he's dead serious.

When Maya is left alone in the room with the prisoner, her face still betraying shock at the details of what's going on, it feels like the set-up for a "good cop" moment, the nurturing woman offering comfort and hope. But Maya seems to read it as a challenge, a test of whether she's got what it takes to play with the big boys, and she quickly shows the prisoner she, too, is all business.

It is no coincidence that Bigelow and Boal make their protagonist a woman; that fact, and Chastain's brilliant performance, are absolutely central to the film's moral center. The film is full of instances where we see Maya facing subtle and not-so-subtle condescension from her colleagues: Dan pointing her out to another male colleague with, "Was I lying, or what?"; the CIA director responding to an assessment of Maya as smart with the retort, "We're all smart."

Maya's own line about discovering bin Laden's hideout — "I'm the motherfucker who found this place" — has already become something of a badass catch-phrase, yet it's also a kind of assertiveness she seems compelled to show as a result of gender-based presumptions.

The women in *Zero Dark Thirty*, including Jennifer Ehle, also fantastic as one of Maya's colleagues, aren't just required to have balls; those balls need to be bigger than those of any other swinging dick in the room in order to be taken seriously, even if it means taking bigger risks.

And that's where the film becomes more than a timeline of decisions. It's about the psychology and rationalizations behind decisions: the way people convince themselves what they're doing is necessary, or the reasons they convince themselves (and others) they're certain even when they're not.

It's a "fog of war" tale that also catches Maya at the end, when she has the luxury of reflecting and wondering if the decisions she made have changed things only for the better.

Zero Dark Thirty is far from perfect structurally, at times struggling to connect its three fairly distinct sections: intel-gathering in the Middle East, political wrangling in Washington, and the eventual raid on bin Laden's compound. And the revolving door of supporting characters does occasionally make it hard to follow a basic narrative line. Yet it's consistently gripping, not just as espionage or military thriller but as an exercise in viewer identification.

As we've already seen from the outraged editorials, you get to look at every data point, every casualty, every violation of human dignity, every course of action, and play history's armchair quarterback. It asks in blunt terms, "If it were you, and you knew this was what it took to achieve this goal, would you have done the same things? And was it worth it?"

— scene@csindy.com

RatingsWrapUp

	Indy	Hollywood Reporter	Rotten Tomatoes	Variety
Django Unchained (R)	Brilliant	Enjoy	Brilliant	Enjoy
Hyde Park on Hudson (R)	Wait for DVD	Enjoy	Wait for DVD	Wait for DVD
Les Miserables (PG-13)	Wait for DVD	Wait for DVD	Enjoy	Enjoy
Promised Land (PG-13)	Wait for DVD	Wait for DVD	Wait for DVD	Enjoy
Zero Dark Thirty (R)	Brilliant	Brilliant	Brilliant	Brilliant

KEY: Brilliant · Enjoy · Wait for DVD · Lame

Visit csindy.com and m.csindy.com for more reviews and movie times.

CineFiles

Osombie (NR)
Entertainment One

Sure, *Zero Dark Thirty*, the dramatization of Osama bin Laden's takedown, may be reaping the accolades, but it's nowhere near as fun (or surprisingly political) as action-horror flick *Osombie*. In this film, bin Laden had perfected a biological WMD that caused the dead to reanimate, and infected himself as SEAL Team Six stormed his bunker. After a government cover-up, Osama leads a new breed of suicide bomber (already dead) against various coalitions overseas. The premise sounds wacky, but director John Lyde handles it with utmost seriousness, creating real tension and also thought-provoking commentary about the killing of the most hated man in the world. Of course, the fact that it's filled with tons of bloody samurai-sword-beheading, RPG-inflicted body explosions, and teeming hordes of undead al-Qaida agents doesn't hurt it, either. ***— Louis Fowler***

Compliance (R)
Magnolia

At the time of the events portrayed in this bone-chilling workplace cautionary tale (2004), minimum wage was just north of $5 per hour, and grease-caked workers died monthly from violent crimes on the job. It was the perfect, subhuman atmosphere for a psychopath to turn into his sick playground via a series of true-life prank calls designed to test the bounds of what low-wage rural workers will do to protect themselves and the corporation that suppresses them. *Compliance* depicts a McDonald's, in which a manager detains and strips a teen cashier in a back office, simply because a man on the phone claiming to be a cop says she stole cash from a customer. The prank pushes further, creating a small-scale, high-stakes journey into a Milgram-esque nightmare. Flirting with the same excuses that real-life subjects might have told themselves, director Craig Zobel's actors show with harrowing efficiency just how inexcusable this behavior was. ***— Justin Strout***

Black Like Me (NR)
VSC

When released in 1961, *Black Like Me* was brave and highly controversial, a nonfiction book that lifted a veil off the racist South of the '50s. The film version came out in 1964, co-written and directed by Carl Lerner, but it's only recently been re-appreciated. James Whitmore stars as the book's author, John Howard Griffin, who medically altered his pigment and literally tanned himself black to go undercover in the deep South to expose the truth about racism with Jim Crow laws in full force. While this idea has been mocked in more recent films like *Soul Man* and *Tropic Thunder*, at the time they were eye-opening revelations to white Americans who had either been unaware or unaccepting of the truth of the Southern situation. The DVD also contains a bonus disc featuring a full-length documentary about Griffin, who kept up the civil rights fight until his death in 1980, that only makes the movie all the more powerful and compelling. ***— Louis Fowler***

AudioFile

Red dirt do-si-do

Country musician Thom Shepherd dances solo

By Kirsten Akens

He jokes that most of his songs are "pretty shallow" — and with hits under his songwriter's belt such as "Cheaper to Keep Her" and "Redneck Yacht Club," there's probably some truth to that. But true or not, it's in direct contrast to the trajectory of the past 10 years of Thom Shepherd's life.

After surviving cancer twice, then going through a divorce, and deciding to make a 2011 move from his long-time home in Nashville to Austin, Shepherd is finally on the path he has always wanted to pursue — that of a touring country artist.

"It's really cool, 'cause when I lived in Nashville, and I wrote songs, always in the back of your mind, you're thinking ... 'I've gotta write something that somebody else is gonna record if I want to keep my day job.'"

Not that it wasn't successful. Shepherd has placed more than 90 songs, including 10 singles, onto albums by the likes of George Jones, Montgomery Gentry and Kevin Fowler. He says it's "still a thrill, every time" when someone records something he's authored, but he's much happier where he is now.

"I moved to Nashville to pursue a touring career and make CDs. ... I ended up becoming more of a songwriter for a day job. I started going down to Texas to write with some people, back a few years ago, and I saw what their music scene was like. I saw that you could tour. You could make your own CDs. You could be an independent artist and own everything relating to your career. And you could do that in Texas."

Why is that? He explains that Austin thrives on a live music scene while Nashville's scene centers on music publishing and record labels. Nashville radio caters to country artists who already have major deals. Texas as a state has its own charts, and because of that, radio stations there take more chances on independent artists and albums — including Shepherd's December release *Simplify* — that might sit a little outside the mainstream.

"What I like about Texas, with their red dirt music genre, is that it's so broad. It's everything from bands that kinda sound like alternative rock, to bands that are like 'cowboy hat, fiddle and steel guitar' country. There's some kinda blues bands in there. It's such a wide open genre and the fans come out for all of it. They don't care. They come see everybody."

And ultimately, it's time on stage sharing his music with those fans that drives Shepherd. "That connection is just priceless. That's why I do it. ... Even if it's three people, or a concert hall of people."

Shepherd finds his flock: 'It's almost like a religious experience.'

Or sometimes, a throng of military personnel on one of the nine Armed Forces tours in which Shepherd's participated.

"Everybody's kinda missing home, and to bring a little bit of home to them, it's just the best thing," he says. "I play 'Riding With Private Malone' for people when they're overseas, away from their families, and you see 'em crying, and people stand up and hold their hand up in the air like they're in church or something. It's almost like a religious experience, and it's the power of music to do that with folks.

"To be able to be the person that brings that feeling to a crowd of people is pretty awesome."

— kakens@csindy.com

CAPSULE

Thom Shepherd, with Coley McCabe

Friday, Jan. 11, 7:30 p.m.

Damon Runyon Theater, 611 N. Main St., Pueblo

Tickets: $12/adv, $15/door, $10/military ID; runyontheater.org, 719/564-0579.

SoundAdvice

Dropkick Murphys

Signed and Sealed in Blood

Born & Bred Records

File next to: Flogging Molly, the Pogues

The Dropkick Murphys' 2011 *Going Out in Style* album was something of a landmark for the veteran Celtic rockers. A full-on concept record, it featured more serious songs suited to its tale of a fictional Irish immigrant's lineage and new life in the U.S. But with *Signed and Sealed in Blood*, the Dropkick Murphys are back to their old tricks with a set of rowdy, Irish-accented rockers. They announce their intentions with the opening track, "The Boys Are Back," a prototype Dropkick Murphys' rocker with a rousing chorus about looking for trouble. From there things rollick along through the raucous "The Battle Rages On," "My Hero" and "Prisoner's Song," plus an acoustic tune called "Rose Tattoo" that would be worthy of a sing-along in a pub. There isn't much here that will surprise the Dropkick Murphys' faithful, but they'll definitely be entertained by this spirited effort. ***— Alan Sculley***

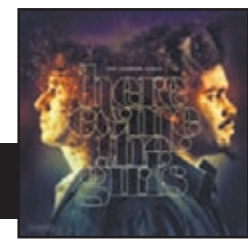
A Fragile Tomorrow

Be Nice Be Careful

Piewillie Records

File next to: Lemonheads, the dB's

Be Nice Be Careful, the South Carolina group's fourth album, gets added credibility from having pop legend Mitch Easter as co-producer, while guest appearances from the likes of Don Dixon, Indigo Girls' Amy Ray and Bangles Vicki and Debbi Peterson don't hurt. That kind of talent would be wasted if A Fragile Tomorrow didn't deliver, and there are some gems. "Don't Need Saving" is one of the cheeriest tunes, its strong vocal melody sweetened by bouncy organ. Songs like "Blank Paper" and "Crooked Smiles and Greedy Hands" make melancholy sound truly lovely, while "Kernersville" and "Three More Hours" boast the jangle pop sound for which original R.E.M. producer Easter is known. Meanwhile,"Dropout Reunion" and "Long Time to Be Happy" add a friskier edge, making this a fine post-holiday present for indie-pop devotees. ***— Alan Sculley***



The London Souls

Here Come the Girls

Self-released

File next to: T. Rex, Supergrass

A welcome follow-up to this New York-based rock duo's self-titled debut, *Here Come the Girls* sat in the can for most of 2012, after a near-fatal auto accident left frontman Tash Neal incapacitated for months. The good news is that Neal and drummer Chris St. Hilaire are back, preparing to tour behind this spirited slice of tuneful Brit-rock that manages to move forward in the tradition of T. Rex and Mott the Hoople. Songs like "All Tied Down," "Steady Are You Ready" and "City of Light" inject a hefty dose of glam attitude into their big guitar sound, while grooving rockers like "Valerie," "Certain Appeal" and "Bobby James" convey an earthier quality. The latter song, in fact, could almost double as a lost Faces track. *Here Come the Girls* is catchy and well-crafted throughout, with a timeless quality that should make this album hold up over the long haul. ***— Alan Sculley***

WORSHIP SERVICES

First Presbyterian Church
Graham Baird, Senior Pastor
Sunday Services of Worship
Nevada at Bijou
8:20 & 9:45 a.m.
Sanctuary, Blended Style with Choir
9:45 a.m.
Fellowship Hall, Contemporary
11:10 a.m.
Sanctuary, Contemporary
5:00 p.m.
Sanctuary, Contemplative
Nursery at All Services
884-6100
www.first-pres.org

Metropolitan Community Church
theinclusivechurch
This Sunday @ 10am:
Jan. 13th
Not All Those Who Wander Are Lost
1102 S. 21st Street, 80904
www.ppmcc.org

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"More than Sitting on Santa's Knee"
Rev. Broadbent preaches
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January 13th
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Baptism of the Lord
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REVERB

BY BILL FORMAN

Not every course you take in college, assuming you're lucky enough to go, is guaranteed to stay with you once you've ventured out into the "real" world. But last Friday, after seeing local experimental ensemble **Phrames of Mind**'s debut before a packed house at the **Modbo** gallery, I was reminded of two courses that fostered my appreciation for edgier musical explorations.

'McMurtry: America's fiercest songwriter.'

The first was an electronic music course that was taught by avant-garde composer **Charles Dodge** and included weekly sessions in the university's electronic music lab, where I'd spend hours exploring the mysteries of an old-school Moog synthesizer. A massive analog beast with enough patch cords and voltage control oscillators to make *2001*'s **HAL 9000** jealous, it taught me that machines can be every bit as unpredictable as the people operating them.

The second course was "The Physics of Sound," where I learned about the phenomenon of sympathetic resonance. Examples are all around us: A passing truck rattling your windows, a president "setting the tone" for political discourse. In music, it can be one string causing another to vibrate, or a gathering of performers venturing beyond the limits of their individual imaginations.

And there was plenty of the latter going on Friday, with extended group improvisations that drew upon a diverse sonic palette, from **Glen Whitehead**'s electronically enhanced trumpet work (think **Nils Petter Molvær** meets **Art Ensemble of Chicago**) to guitarist **Janet Feder** scraping unidentified metal objects against nylon strings, à la **Fred Frith**.

Flautist **Jane Rigler**'s stylistic approach was especially intriguing, with unusual vocalizations and delicate changes in intonation that seemed to draw upon Japanese *shakuhachi* technique. The lower end of the ever-shifting audio spectrum was adroitly occupied by upright bassist **Jay Baker** and bass clarinetist **David Mead**, all set against the immersive soundscapes of New York electronicist **Doug Van Nort**.

All too often, internationally recognized musicians go unnoticed in their own communities.

Of course, my college flashbacks might also have been due to the fact that most of Friday's improvisers are UCCS music faculty as well as members of the school's **Peak FreQuency** collective (who, by the way, are hosting a week-long residency by iconoclastic composer **Pauline Oliveros** in April). It's ironic, but not atypical, that internationally recognized, cutting-edge musicians go virtually unnoticed in their own communities, so hats off to the Modbo folks for introducing them to the rest of us. (You can hear the whole concert online at theflatresponse.com.)

It was also really gratifying to see such a big turnout for the following evening's **Father John Misty** show at the **Black Sheep**. After an engaging set of jangly twee-pop from **Magic Trick** — a new band fronted by the **Fresh & Onlys' Tim Cohen** — FJM frontman **Josh Tillman** proved he has the voice, the songs and the stage presence to establish himself as more than just "that guy from the **Fleet Foxes**." (Sorry, did it again.)

While Father John Misty's *Fear Fun* was among the most critically acclaimed albums of 2012, there was always the risk that Tillman wouldn't be able to pull it all off live. But songs like "Nancy for Now" — the most haunting ballad that **Harry Nilsson** never wrote — and the big-beat "Hollywood Forever Cemetery Sings" were stunning. There were a few weak spots — "I'm Writing a Novel" felt like a retread of "The Ballad of John and Yoko," while an inexplicable cover of **Canned Heat**'s "Going Up the Country" made for a disappointing closer — but all in all, a great show.

So what are the chances that another "household name" will visit our frozen wasteland in the coming weeks? Turns out **James McMurtry** has just scheduled a handful of Colorado dates, including the **Mishawaka Amphitheatre** near Fort Collins, the **L2 Arts and Culture Center** in Denver, and, on Feb. 17, the **Loft** here in Colorado Springs.

It was McMurtry who gave us one of the angriest odes to America's underclass since **Phil Ochs**' heyday. "We Can't Make It Here" won an **Americana Music Association** "Song of the Year" award, was named one of ***Rolling Stone***'s "25 Best Songs of the 2000s," and was re-recorded with **Steve Earle** and **Joan Baez** for the *Occupy This Album* benefit compilation.

"James McMurtry's songwriting is a bit ornery at times," says **Jason Miller**, who'll be opening the show (and also recording his own live album at the same venue on Jan. 18). "'Choctaw Bingo' and 'We Can't Make It Here' are like badass twisters. If you have warning and take shelter, you can safely observe. But, at the end, everything is messy."

So now that the word is out on "America's fiercest songwriter" playing one of Colorado's smallest stages, I'm guessing you have about five minutes before tickets sell out at loftmusicvenue.com. Good luck!

Send news, photos and music to reverb@csindy.com; follow our updates at tinyurl.com/indyreverb.

PlayingAround

LIVE MUSIC: WEDNESDAY, JAN. 9, THROUGH TUESDAY, JAN. 15

Wednesday 1/9

Club Q, *Open Mic Night,* 10 p.m.
Frankie's, *Open Mic (acoustic),* 8:30 p.m.
Front Range, *Jim Marsh & The Cigar Box Band (bluegrass),* 7:30 p.m.
Margarita at PineCreek, *Crystal and the Curious (jazz),* 7 p.m.
Meadow Muffins, *Brian Parton (Americana),* 7 p.m.
MoodSwings, *Open Mic Night (acoustic),* 8 p.m., $5, free for jammers.
Park East, *The Martini Shot Unplugged (acoustic),* 7 p.m.
Penrose Room, *Penrose Room Trio with Lila Mori (jazz),* 6:30 p.m.
Rawkus, *Sub.Mission Residency, feat. Badklaat and Coffii (dance),* 8 p.m., $10.
Zodiac, *'80s Dance Nite, hosted by DJ Monster Mike (dance),* 9 p.m.

Thursday 1/10

Adam's, *Ben Pratt (acoustic),* 6:30 p.m.
Ancient Mariner, *Open Mic with Stolen Idol Productions (acoustic),* 8:30 p.m.
Benny's, *Open Mic with the Jerry Roskin Band,* 9 p.m.
Crystola Roadhouse, *Mike Nelson (blues),* 6 p.m.
Jack Quinn's, *Brian Clancy (world),* 7:30 p.m.
Meadow Muffins, *Joey Not Home (rock/pop),* 8 p.m., *DJ Tony G (dance),* 9 p.m.
MoodSwings, *VC and His Guitar (acoustic),* 8 p.m., $5-$10.
Motif, *Jim Adam and John Stilwagen (blues),* 7:15 p.m.
Park East, *Sarah Wood & Theo DeCenzo (acoustic),* 7 p.m.
Penrose Room, *Penrose Room Trio with Lila Mori (jazz),* 6:30 p.m.
Rico's, *Susan Rissman and Tribe (jazz),* 7 p.m.
Ritz, *DJ Serge (dance),* 9 p.m.
Stargazers, *Thin Air Jazz (jazz),* 7 p.m., $5-$8.
Tavern at The Broadmoor, *Tavern Orchestra with Lewis Mock (rock/pop),* 8:30 p.m.

Friday 1/11

Adam's, *Ben Pratt (acoustic),* 9 a.m.
Ancient Mariner, *Mercurial Two (rock/pop),* 8:30 p.m.
Benny's, *40 oz. Freedom Fighters (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.
Black Sheep, *Till We Rise, Liberator, Telling False Time (hardcore),* 7:30 p.m., $5-$7.
Broadmoor Academy of Music, *Friday Jazz Jam Session (jazz),* 7 p.m.
Cleats, *Neighborhood Bully (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.
Cucuru, *Rocky Gene Wallace and Dave Day (blues),* 7 p.m.
Fujiyama, *Barbara Ernst/Mistura Bela (world),* 7 p.m.
Kasey's, *Friday Nights with DJ Panther (R&B),* 9 p.m.
Meadow Muffins, *Cous & the Brother-*

VENUE DIRECTORY

Adam's Mountain Café, 934 Manitou Ave., #102, Manitou Springs, 685-1430
Ancient Mariner, 962 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-5503
Benny's Restaurant & Lounge, 517 W. Colorado Ave., 634-9309
Black Sheep, 2106 E. Platte Ave., 227-7625
Broadmoor Academy of Music, 1223 Lake Plaza Drive, Suite C, 576-3979
Cleats Sports Bar & Grill, 6624 Delmonico Drive, 548-8267
Club Q, 3430 N. Academy Blvd., 570-1429
Crystola Roadhouse, 20918 U.S. Hwy. 24, Woodland Park, 687-7879
Cucuru Gallery Café, 2332 W. Colorado Ave., 520-9900
Frankie's Bar & Grill, 945 N. Powers Blvd., 574-4881
Front Range Barbeque, 2330 W. Colorado Ave., 632-2596
Fujiyama, 22 S. Tejon St., Suite A, 630-1167
Jack Quinn Irish Alehouse & Pub, 21 S. Tejon St., 385-0766
Kasey's Bar & Grill, 1919 E. Boulder St., 635-8128
Lounge In the Village, 3440 W. Carefree Circle, 550-9721
Margarita at PineCreek, 7350 Pine Creek Road, 598-8667
Meadow Muffins, 2432 W. Colorado Ave., 633-0583
MoodSwings Acoustic Lounge, 696 N. Circle Drive, 201-2592
Motif, 2432 Cucharras St., 635-5635
Park East Restaurant, 720 Goodnight Ave., Pueblo, 719/565-6655
Penrose Room at The Broadmoor, 1 Lake Ave., 577-5773
Pikes Peak Brewing Co., 1756 Lake Woodmoor Drive, 208-4098

Got a live music event readers should know about? Send us the band/musician, where they're playing and when (day, date and time), how much it will cost and a contact phone number — by Wednesday

hood (blues), 9 p.m., *DJ Mortekai (dance)*, 9 p.m.
MoodSwings, *Muriel Shickman (acoustic),* 8 p.m., $5-$10.
Motif, *John Wise Trio (jazz),* 7:45 p.m.
Penrose Room, *Penrose Room Trio with Lila Mori (jazz),* 6:30 p.m.
Rawkus, *Shawn Mitiska, with Decibel, Parrish (dance)*, 8 p.m.
Rico's, *Nick Davey (acoustic),* 7:30 p.m.
Ritz, *Bad Grammar Overload (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.
Sky Box Lounge, *Jeff "Fitty" Smith (acoustic),* 7 p.m.
Sonterra, *John Stone (acoustic),* 7 p.m.
Spice of Life, *Mike Nelson (blues),* 6:30 p.m.
Stadium Bar and Grill, *The Nocturnal Tomatoes (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
Stargazers, *Starburn (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
Swirl Wine Bar, *Aggressive Dinner Music with Ben Pratt (acoustic),* 7 p.m.
Tavern at The Broadmoor, *Tavern Orchestra with Lewis Mock (rock/pop),* 8:30 p.m.
Townhouse, *Lisa McCall (blues),* 9 p.m.
Triple Nickel, *OFL, Murder Hat, Red Stinger (rock/pop)*, 9 p.m.
Union Station, *6035 (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.
Ute Inn, *Cari Dell Trio (blues),* 8 p.m.
V Bar, *DJ Gravity (dance),* 9 p.m.
Venue 515, *Edith Makes a Paperchain (folk),* 7:30 p.m., $5-$10.
Wooglin's, *Second Friday at Wooglins (acoustic),* 7 p.m.
Zodiac, *Channel 27, Suspension IX, Albatross Blue (rock/pop)*, 9 p.m., $5.

Saturday 1/12

Ancient Mariner, *Out to Dry (rock/pop),* 8:30 p.m.
Benny's, *Mike Nelson Band (blues),* 9 p.m.
Black Sheep, *Mad Trees, Stoney Bertz, J. Craft, Chris Crookz (hip-hop)*, 8 p.m., $5-$7.
Cleats, *DJ Ron Perry (dance),* 9 p.m.
Crystola Roadhouse, *Westcreek (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
Cucuru, *Tricia Parrish (rock/pop),* 7:30 p.m.
Fujiyama, *DJ Ron Perry (jazz),* 6 p.m.
Jack Quinn's, *The Delta Sonics (blues),* 9:30 p.m.
Lounge In the Village, *One Nite Stand Band (dance),* 8 p.m.
Meadow Muffins, *Mad Dog & the Smokin' J's (dance),* 9 p.m., *DJ Tony G (dance)*, 9 p.m.
MoodSwings, *Brady O Band (acoustic),* 8 p.m., $5-$10.
Motif, *Julie Bradley and Friends (jazz),* 7:45 p.m.
Penrose Room, *Penrose Room Trio with Lila Mori (jazz),* 6:30 p.m.
Pikes Peak Brewing Co., *Adam & Stilwagen (blues),* 7 p.m.
Rico's, *Bill Snyder and Jim Adam (blues),* 7:30 p.m.
Ritz, *Stereo Clone (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.
Riverside Bar and Grill, *Cari Dell Trio (blues),* 9 p.m.
Russ' Place, *Dave German (acoustic),* 7 p.m.
Sonterra, *John Stone (acoustic),* 7 p.m.
Speedtrap, *The Nocturnal Tomatoes (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
Tavern at The Broadmoor, *Tavern Orchestra with Lewis Mock (rock/pop),* 8:30 p.m.
Townhouse, *The Upside (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.
Triple Nickel, *Behold!, The City, Ally and I (rock/pop)*, 9 p.m.
Union Station, *WeSoldOurSouls — Black Sabbath/Ozzy Tribute (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
V Bar, *DJ Gravity (dance),* 9 p.m.
Zodiac, *This Means War, Pain Machine, We Are All Destined to Fail, Darkness Within (metal)*, 9 p.m., $5.

Hollywood Undead is coming to the Bluebird Theater in Denver on Jan. 12.

BigGigs

Thom Shepherd, Damon Runyon Repertory Theatre, Pueblo, Jan. 11 • **Hollywood Undead**, Bluebird Theater, Denver, Jan. 12 • **Tom Paxton**, Daniels Hall at Swallow Hill, Denver, Jan. 12 • **Blackalicious**, Marquis Theater, Denver, Jan. 18 • **Reverend Horton Heat**, Black Sheep, Jan. 18 • **Blackberry Smoke**, Summit Music Hall, Denver, Jan. 19 • **Calexico**, Bluebird Theater, Denver, Jan. 19 • **Wendy Woo & Nina Storey**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, Jan. 19 • **Paula Nelson**, Crystola Roadhouse, Woodland Park, Jan. 21 • **The Walkmen**, Ogden Theatre, Denver, Jan. 21 • **Bloc Party**, Ogden Theatre, Denver, Jan. 22 • **Ben Folds Five**, Ogden Theatre, Denver, Jan. 23 • **Tribal Seeds**, Black Sheep, Jan. 23 • **Sea Wolf**, Black Sheep, Jan. 24 • **Cute Is What We Aim For**, Black Sheep, Jan. 25 • **Nonpoint**, Black Sheep, Jan. 26 • **Suzy Bogguss**, Damon Runyon Repertory Theatre, Pueblo, Jan. 26 • **Switchback**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, Jan. 26 • **MartyParty**, Black Sheep, Jan. 27 • **The Toasters**, Black Sheep, Jan. 28 • **Delta Rae**, Bluebird Theater, Denver, Jan. 29 • **The Overseer**, Black Sheep, Jan. 30 • **Iration**, Black Sheep, Jan. 31 • **Pennywise**, Black Sheep, Feb. 1 • **RJD2**, Bluebird Theater, Denver, Feb. 1 • ***Winter on the Rocks*, with Macklemore & Ryan Lewis, Major Lazer**, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Morrison, Feb. 1 • **Kraddy**, Black Sheep, Feb. 2 • **Agent Orange**, Phil's Radiator, Pueblo, Feb. 3 • **Hatebreed**, Black Sheep, Feb. 5 • **The Growlers**, Black Sheep, Feb. 7 • **Ken Stringfellow**, Moe's Original Bar B Que, Englewood, Feb. 7 • **Fred Hersch**, Dazzle Restaurant and Lounge, Denver, Feb. 7-8 • **Royal Southern Brotherhood**, Crystola Roadhouse, Woodland Park, Feb. 8 • **El Ten Eleven**, Black Sheep, Feb. 10 • **The Vaccines**, Bluebird Theater, Denver, Feb. 11 • **The Who**, Pepsi Center, Denver, Feb. 12 • **Carrie Underwood**, World Arena, Feb. 13 • **Marcia Ball**, Daniels Hall at Swallow Hill, Denver, Feb. 15 • **Michael Johnson**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, Feb. 17 • **Stone Sour, Papa Roach**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, Feb. 17 • **Morrissey**, Buell Theatre, Denver, Feb. 21 • ***Rock & Worship Roadshow*, with MercyMe, Jeremy Camp, Tedashii**, World Arena, Feb. 21 • **Savoy**, Boulder Theater, Boulder, Feb. 23 • **Toro y Moi**, Bluebird Theater, Denver, Feb. 23 • **Passion Pit**, 1STBANK Center, Broomfield, March 1 • **PANTyRAID**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, March 2 • **Adrian Legg**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, March 10 • **Altan**, Daniels Hall at Swallow Hill, Denver, March 16 • **Vagabond Opera**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, March 16 • **Thom Shepherd**, Damon Runyon Repertory Theatre, Pueblo, Jan. 11 • **Hollywood Undead**, Bluebird Theater, Denver, Jan. 12 • **Tom Paxton**, Daniels Hall at Swallow Hill, Denver, Jan. 12 • **Blackalicious**, Marquis Theater, Denver, Jan. 18 • **Reverend Horton Heat**, Black Sheep, Jan. 18 • 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Sunday 1/13

Jack Quinn's, *Traditional Irish Session (world),* 3 p.m.
Retired Enlisted Association, *Blues Jam with the Tracy Quinn Band (rock/pop),* 3 p.m.
Stargazers, *Chuck Pyle's An Evening at the Star (country),* 7 p.m., $10.
Tavern at The Broadmoor, *Tavern Orchestra with Lewis Mock (rock/pop),* 8:30 p.m.
Tony's, *Sunday Shenanigans, with NateStarr and TaylorLee (dance),* 9:30 p.m.
Urban Steam Coffee Bar, *Acoustic Open Mic (acoustic),* 1 p.m.
Zodiac, *Dave Hunter, Dakota (rock/pop),* 9 p.m., $3.

Monday 1/14

Zodiac, *Open Mic hosted by Andrea Stone,* 7 p.m.

Tuesday 1/15

Adam's, *Wayne Hammerstadt (acoustic),* 6:30 p.m.
Meadow Muffins, *John Austin Band (blues),* 7 p.m.
Townhouse, *Open Mic (acoustic),* 9 p.m.
Zodiac, *Goth Nite with DJ Raid (dance),* 9 p.m.

Rawkus, 3506 N. Academy Blvd., 596-0000
Retired Enlisted Association, 834 Emory Circle, 596-0927
Rico's Café and Wine Bar, 322½ N. Tejon St., 578-5549
Ritz Grill, 15 S. Tejon St., 635-8484
Riverside Bar and Grill, 4021 Jerry Murphy Road, Pueblo, 719/543-2037
Russ' Place, 52 County Road 5, Divide, 687-5599
The Sky Box Lounge, 2102 E. Bijou St., 634-4815
Sonterra Innovative Southwest Grill, 28B S. Tejon St., 471-9222
Speedtrap, 84 State Hwy. 105, Palmer Lake, 488-2007
Spice of Life Café, 727 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-5284
Stadium Bar and Grill, 6120 Barnes Road, 302-0969
Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, 10 S. Parkside Drive, 476-2200
Swirl Wine Bar, 717 Manitou Ave., #102, Manitou Springs, 685-2294
Tavern at The Broadmoor, 1 Lake Ave., 577-5772
Tony's Bar, 311 N. Tejon St., 228-6566
Townhouse Lounge, 907 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1085
Triple Nickel Tavern, 26 S. Wahsatch Ave., 477-9555
Union Station, 2419 N. Union Blvd., 227-7168
Urban Steam Coffee Bar, 1025 S. Sierra Madre St., 473-7832
Ute Inn, 204 W. Midland Ave., Woodland Park, 687-1465
V Bar, 19 E. Kiowa St., 635-9599
Venue 515, 515 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861
Wooglin's Deli & Café, 823 N. Tejon St., 578-9443
Zodiac, 230 Pueblo Ave., 632-5059

at noon for the following week's paper. If we don't receive confirmation of ongoing events on a monthly basis, they won't run. Send to: livemusic@csindy.com.

VOTED BEST VENUE IN THE SPRINGS!
THE BLACK SHEEP
2106 E. PLATTE AVE, CO SPRINGS
ON SALE THIS WEEK!
THE STEEPWATER BAND - FEB 17 (ON SALE FRI)
10 YEARS - FEB 21 (ON SALE FRI)
Fri, Jan. 11th - 7:30pm
TILL WE RISE
LIBERATOR, FORSAKE IT ALL, ALL PROMISES ASIDE
Sat, Jan. 12th - 8:00pm
MAD TREES
STONEY BERTZ, J. CRAFT, CHRIS CROOKZ
Fri, Jan. 18th - 8:00pm
REVEREND HORTON HEAT
FEATURING: RENO DIVORCE
Sat, Jan. 19th - 7:30pm
5 BANDS FOR 5 BUCKS!
TREE OF WOE
ABERRANT, BLIGHTER, DRIPFED, RHOGOG
Wed, Jan. 23rd - 7:00pm
TRIBAL SEEDS
STICK FIGURE, THE MAAD T-RAY, OFFBEAT REVOLUTION
Thu, Jan. 24th - 8:00pm
KRGG PRESENTS
SEA WOLF
THE DONNIES THE AMYS, WE ARE NOT A GLUM LOT,
Fri, Jan. 25th - 7:00pm
PRESENTED BY 103.9 RXP
CUTE IS WHAT WE AIM FOR
SAVING VERONA
Sat, Jan. 26th - 7:00pm
NONPOINT
CANDLELIGHT RED, DIGITAL SUMMER
Sun, Jan. 27th - 8:00pm
MARTY PARTY
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
Mon, Jan. 28th - 7:00pm
PRESENTED BY 103.9 RXP
THE TOASTERS
MRS. SKANNOTTO
Wed, Jan. 30th - 7:00pm
THE OVERSEER
FIT FOR A KING, ALL PROMISES ASIDE
Thu, Jan. 31st - 7:00pm
PRESENTED BY 103.9 RXP
IRATION
PASSAFIRE, PACIFIC DUB
UPCOMING EVENTS
FEB 1 - PENNYWISE
FEB 2 - KRADDY
FEB 3 - THE ROUGE
FEB 5 - HATEBREED
FEB 7 - THE GROWLERS
FEB 8 - CHARLIE MILO TRIO
FEB 10 - EL TEN ELEVEN
FEB 13 - THE ROUGE
FEB 15 - MOD SUN
FEB 17 - THE STEEPWATER BAND
FEB 16 - TWENTY ONE PILOTS
FEB 19 - A SILENT FILM
FEB 21 - 10 YEARS
FEB 22 - BALLYHOO!
FEB 24 - NATTY VIBES
FEB 25 - TREMONTI
MAR 5 - SUMERIAN RECORDS BATTLE OF THE BANDS
MAR 8 - CURRENT SWELL
MAR 9 - THE DIRTY HEADS, SHINY TOY GUNS
MAR 10 - SALVADOR SANTANA
ALL SHOWS ALL AGES UNLESS SPECIFIED
Door times listed. Advance tickets available on show nights, by phone at 1-866-468-7621 or buy online at:
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AudioFile

One dawn at a time

Augustana's Dan Layus steps back into the light of day

By Tom Lanham

Dan Layus isn't afraid to face the cold, hard truth. For his charming little folk-rock outfit Augustana — which scored hits with 2006's "Boston" and 2008's "Sweet and Low" — the past couple of years have been filled with trials and tribulations, the kind that could convince most lesser artists to pack it in and give up on showbiz altogether.

"Things have never been worse on paper, our stock has never been so low within the industry," says Layus, who parted ways with his bandmates in late 2011, just months after the release of the group's fourth major-label album *Augustana*. "And yet things feel the brightest that they've felt in years, so it's kind of exciting."

CAPSULE

Augustana, with Lauren Shera

Saturday, Jan. 12, 9 p.m.

Larimer Lounge, 2721 Larimer St., Denver

$22.50/adv, $25/door, 18-plus; larimerlounge.com, 303/291-1007.

What went wrong for the once-picked-to-click singer? For starters, he lost his label deal with Epic, and he's not even sure how. All he knows is what he heard secondhand: "L.A. Reid came in when the label had essentially folded and kind of gutted the company and a lot of the employees. So I think we went the way of a couple of other acts that were gutted, as well."

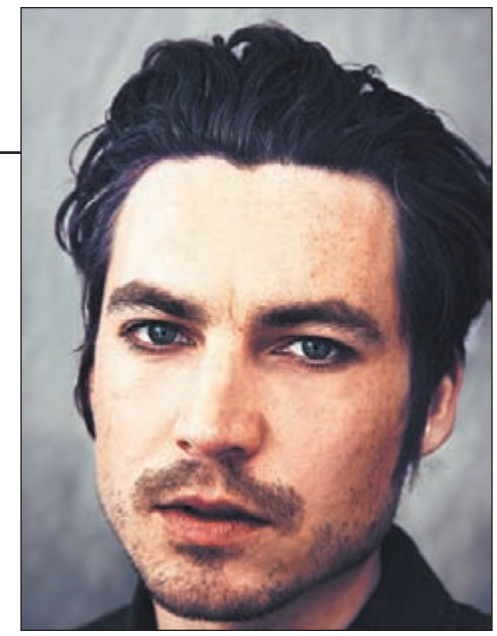
Still, the 28-year-old Southern California native is being Zen-like about it. He had a good run with Epic, he says, no hard feelings. His bandmates, unfortunately, couldn't maintain the same optimism. One by one, they gradually left to pursue other projects.

"So basically, I'm essentially it at this point — I *am* Augustana," he sighs. "When we disbanded, it was sad and it was heartbreaking, but it was the right time and everybody was ready to move on. And it was cool to see everybody move on through life to different things, like USC law school, marriage, all sorts of stuff. But I'm still here, chugging along, writing and touring."

Hindsight being 20/20, Layus is now in a position to recognize past mistakes — like his drinking problem, which derailed many an Augustana performance.

"I spent my twenties at the bottom of a bottle," he confesses. "But I've been sober for a few years now, and that really cleared up a lot of problems. I'm playing very clearheaded shows now, and I've never been so focused and intent on doing great things, on and off stage. It's freed up my mind to write some really sobering new songs, as well."

The composer's latest material — self-explanatory numbers like "Alive," "Comeback Story," and "Need a Little Sunshine" — aren't metaphorical or pompous, he notes. They're written in plain English, in terms that everyone can understand. He's been recording them at home, too, and he currently has an entire album's worth in the can, which he may release digitally or possibly shop to a more artist-friendly label.



And then there was one: 'I'm essentially it at this point — I am *Augustana.'*

So everything happens for a reason, Layus believes. "And it's all good — I *like* the life I'm living now. I'm up at about 4:30 every morning, writing songs before the sun comes up, and there's a whole lot of positivity in the work.

"And it's funny — in the demos you can hear my three kids, and sometimes I'm actually holding the baby while I'm singing. I'm almost compelled to release *that* as a record, because it's just so damned real."

— scene@csindy.com

Pikes Peak Library District
Adult Reading Program
Winter Wonderland Tales
Kick-Off Party
Fri., Jan. 11 • 1 - 3 p.m.
East Library
5550 N. Union Blvd.
You will be able to sign up for the program and get your materials, as well as enjoy entertainment and refreshments!
For more information, email arp@ppld.org.
Chick-fil-A
Fine Arts Center
H&R BLOCK
LOUIE'S PIZZA
PLATO'S CLOSET
ppld.org
Wendy's

Listings

PICK Indicates our recommendations for this week.

YOUR GUIDE TO EVENTS IN THE PIKES PEAK REGION

ArtEvents

Bemis School of Art classes, offering a variety of courses for all ages on topics such as: drawing, painting, ceramics, bookmaking, digital arts and leather crafting. Bemis School of Art, 818 Pelham Place, 475-2444, csfineartscenter.org.

Big Picture Discussion Group, join others to talk about art and spirituality. Wednesdays, 6 p.m. Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, tinyurl.com/cs6lo26.

Brunch at the BAC, a discussion forum as part of the Artist's Studio event series. This time, Erik Hyle will speak "about innovation and new movements in fire art." Sun., Jan. 13, 11 a.m. Free. Venue 515, 515 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, thebac.org.

Cottonwood Center for the Arts classes, offering courses on topics including: painting, drawing, art marketing, writing, digital media, mixed media and more. Cottonwood Center for the Arts, 427 E. Colorado Ave., 520-1899, cottonwoodcenterforthearts.com.

PICK **"Learn to Curl,"** a class from the Broadmoor Curling Club. Saturday, Jan. 12, 8 p.m. $25. Colorado Sports Center, 16240 Old Denver Road, Monument, 499-8465, coloradocurling.org.

Fab Lab, weekly sessions to fix items or create new things with Concrete Couch. Wednesdays, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, thebac.org.

Public Free Day, free general admittance to the galleries and docent tours. Third Tuesday of every month, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, 30 W. Dale St., 634-5581, csfineartscenter.org.

Third Place — Heart Gallery of America, a chance to see works from this collaborative project in an open studio setting, with appearances during receptions on the first and third Fridays between 5-8 p.m. Sangre de Cristo Arts Center, 210 N. Santa Fe Ave., Pueblo, 719/295-7200, sdc-arts.org.

ArtExhibits

The Bridge Gallery, 218 W. Colorado Ave., thebridgeartgallery.com. *Congregation of the Unknown*, a collection of "illustrated sculpture" by Cole Bennett and Deena Bennett. Also held in the Commons Gallery. Through Jan. 31.

Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, thebac.org. *The Artist's Studio*, an exhibit centering on "Innovation, Ideas, Methods and Materials from Fine Art Adult Educators," featuring works from instructors at local studios, community colleges, universities, the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center and the Business of Art Center. *BAC Annual Holiday Show*, a wide selection of works from BAC regulars in ceramics, painting, glass, prints and mixed media. *Dave Wyzenbeek: Recent Works*, an exploration of faith, self, and the subconscious in monotypes and drawings from the Denver artist. All shows through Jan. 19.

Commonwheel Artists Co-op, 102 Cañon Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1008, commonwheel.com. *Pots by the Pound*, a post-holiday sale featuring discounted art priced by weight. Jan. 11-28.

Coutura Design Inspirations, 6380 Corporate Center Circle, 636-3000, manitouspringsartscouncil.org. *Colors of Change* , an exhibit spanning many visual art media including painting, sculpture, graphic art and pottery, geared to engage and inspire. Through Feb. 28.

CSU-Pueblo's Fine Art Gallery, 2200 Bonforte Blvd., Pueblo, 719/549-2404, chass.colostate-pueblo.edu/Art/Galleries/Pages/Galleries.aspx. *Voices: A Retrospective*, a comprehensive solo show from Pueblo artist the Poet Spiel, who excels in visual art, poetry and spoken word. Through Jan. 18.

Downtown Studio Gallery at Pikes Peak Community College, 100 W. Pikes Peak Ave., 502-4040, laura.ben-amots@ppcc.edu, ppcc.edu/departments/art/ppcc-art-gallery. *Symphony*, the winter student exhibition from the art department of Pikes Peak Community College. Through Feb. 7.

G44 Gallery, 1785 S. Eighth St., Suite A, 720/951-0573, g44gallery.com. *Diversity, Perversity & Perplexity*, an exhibition of the life work of Old Colorado City artist William Cummins. Opening reception, Fri., Jan. 11, 5 p.m.

Gallery 113, 113 N. Tejon St., Gallery-113.com. *New Works*, an exhibit of jewelry and artworks from local creators. Through Jan. 31.

Shears, 334 N. Nevada Ave., 633-4273, shearsbarbershop.com. *Abstract Expressions*, new paintings, encaustics and mixed-media works from local artists Sheary Clough Suiter and Nard Claar. Through March 15.

Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, 10 S. Parkside Drive, 476-2200, stargazerstheatre.com. *Not Your Grandma's Quilts*, an exhibition by Colorado Springs Fiber Artists, a collective whose work pushes the boundaries of traditional textile art in new and exciting directions. Through Jan. 15.

Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts, 304 Hwy. 105, Palmer Lake, 481-0475, trilakesarts.org. *From the Earth*, a collection of fine art made from wood, clay and stone. Through Feb. 2. Opening reception, Fri., Jan. 11, 5-8 p.m.

Auditions&Entries

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center seeks submissions of new scripts for its April program, *Rough Writers: A New Play Fest. Rough Writers* will feature new scripts based on three works of art in the museum. After the Fest, the winning play will be staged during the FAC Theatre Company's 2013-2014 season. More information available online. Submissions due: Feb. 14. Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, 30 W. Dale St., 634-5581, roughwriters@csfineartscenter.org, csfineartscenter.org.

Commonwheel Artists Co-op seeks a 3-D artist or potter to show in the gallery. Those who have applied before and been denied are encouraged to reapply, as the co-op's needs are always changing. Call or go online for information and requirements. Deadline Jan. 14. Commonwheel Artists Co-op, 102 Cañon Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1008, commonwheel.com.

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Cottonwood Center for the Arts seeks submissions for its upcoming Cajun and Carnival Mardi Gras-themed art show opening Jan. 25. Intake Jan. 17-18, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. $10 per piece submitted; $50 prize for best in show. Cottonwood Center for the Arts, 427 E. Colorado Ave., 520-1899, cottonwoodcenterforthearts.com/cajun-and-carnival.

Improv Colorado is seeking new members. Contact the company via e-mail for a tryout. improvcolorado@gmail.com, improvcolorado.com.

Kreuser Gallery seeks work for its upcoming juried show *Climb!*, which will seek to portray different facets of climbing. All media accepted. Deadline for entries is Jan. 23. $5-$10. Kreuser Gallery, 218 W. Colorado Ave., 630-6347, abigailkreusergallery.com.

Clubs&Organizations

Black Cat Books' Knitting Group, a weekly celebration of yarn and stitchery, now at Black Cat Books' new location in the BAC. E-mail RSVP requested. Sundays, 4-6 p.m. Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, natalie@blackcatbooks.com, thebac.org.

Colorado Springs Inventors Meeting, a chance to get help with your product or invention. Held at Village Inn, 1430 Harrison Road. Tues., Jan. 15, 6 p.m. 303/910-8889, inventorsroundtable.com.

Colorado Vegetarian Group, open to anyone interested in a vegetarian or vegan dietary lifestyle. Visit the website or contact coloradospringsveg@yahoo.com for meetings and other details. vegetarian.meetup.com/534.

Debtors Anonymous, weekly 12-step meetings for those struggling with debt, overspending and/or underearning. First Lutheran Church, 1515 N. Cascade Ave., 641-2979, debtorsanonymous.org.

The Eclectic Society of Lambent Anachronauts, a meeting of the steampunk-minded, held at various locations in Colorado Springs. Second Thursday of every month, 6 p.m. meetup.com/sfandf.

MS Support Groups, offering five support groups around the region for those living with MS and their caregivers. For locations and information call 633-4603. Multiple Sclerosis Alliance of Southern Colorado, 1322 N. Academy Blvd., #119, 633-4603, msasoco.org.

National Organization of the Mentally Ill (NAMI) Colorado Springs, a support group for families of persons with mental illness. First and third Tuesday of every month, 7-8:30 p.m. NAMI Office, 510 E. Willamette Ave., 473-8477, namicoloradosprings.org.

Networking Groups, Pikes Peak Job Search Networking Group meets Mondays, 10 a.m. to noon. 50+ Job Seekers Group meets Thursdays, 10 a.m. to noon. Free. Citizens Service Center, 1675 Garden of the Gods Road, 636-0000, dhs.elpasoco.com.

Parent Education/Toddler Playgroup, a "positive parenting" playgroup for 2- to 3-year-olds. Call for location. Fridays, 9:30 a.m.; through March 8. 785-3714.

Pikes Peak Jugglers, an informal group of jugglers ranging in skill from beginners to pros. Non-members are welcome. Sundays, 3-5 p.m. Free. Informal gatherings open to all ages and skill levels. Sundays, 3-5 p.m. Downtown YMCA, 207 N. Nevada Ave., 477-9978, ppymca.org.

Pikes Peak Posse of the Westerners, a casual meeting of this group, part of Westerners International, that meets for a social hour at 6 and then dinner at 6:30 p.m. ($15.) RSVP to attend at 10 a.m. the Friday prior to each meeting. Second Monday of every month. Colorado Springs Masonic Hall, 1150 Panorama Drive, 473-0330, posse@dewittenterprises.com.

Sno Jets Ski and Social Club, a club for ski enthusiasts. Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Dublin House, 1850 Dominion Way, 265-8820, snojets.org.

Sons of Norway meetings, with cultural presentations. Second Wednesday of every month, 7-9 p.m. Viking Hall, 1045 Ford St., 351-3554, sonsofnorwaycs.com.

Stammtisch — Colorado Springs, a German language conversation group held in Edelweiss' *Rathskeller.* Second Wednesday of every month, 6:30 p.m. Edelweiss, 34 E. Ramona Ave., 633-2220, facebook.com/events/217563261681961.

PICK **Safron of Manitou Springs,** 720 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-5153. *Ever Afters?*, an exhibition of art by K8e Orr inspired by German folktales. Through Jan. 18.

WomenHeart Support Group, a brown-bag lunch gathering of women living with, or at risk for, heart disease. Second Wednesday of every month, 5-6 p.m. Free. Penrose Hospital Main, 2222 N. Nevada Ave., 200-2645, womenheart.org.

Concerts

Disney in Concert, a Magic Kingdom extravaganza with video clips projected above the stage as the Colorado Springs Philharmonic performs classic compositions from everything from *Mary Poppins* to *Pirates of the Caribbean*. Thomas Wilson conducting. Sat., Jan. 12, 8 p.m. $19-$59. Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade Ave., 520-7469, csphilharmonic.org.

Justin Roth, an evening with the nationally touring acoustic guitarist. Sat., Jan. 12, 7:30 p.m. $10-$12. High Plains Unitarian Universalist Church, 1825 Dominion Way, 260-1080, jkuveges@pcisys.ne, hpcuu.org.

Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, the annual musical presentation by the Gospel Music Workshop of America honoring the life and legacy of the Rev. Dr. King. Sun., Jan. 13, 3:30-5:30 p.m. First United Methodist Church, 420 N. Nevada Ave., 209-2390, facebook.com/pages/GMWA-Colorado-Springs-Chapter.

Music Jam, a jam for those with little or no musical experience. Fridays, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, thebac.org.

PPJASS Birthday Party, a chance to celebrate the 28th year of the Pikes Peak Jazz and Swing Society with foxtrots, waltzes, Latin favorites and more from the Swing Connection Dance Orchestra. Dancing, door prizes and a buffet for purchase. Sun., Jan. 13, 1-4 p.m. $5-10. Olympian Plaza Reception and Event Center, 975 S. Union Blvd., 685-9451, ppjass.org.

Comedy&Improv

Lamont Ferguson, Jan. 10-12. $2-$10, two-item minimum. Loonee's Comedy Corner, 1305 N. Academy Blvd., 591-0707, loonees.com.

Stick Horses in Pants, Fri., Jan. 11, 8 p.m. $8-$10. The Loft, 2506 W. Colorado Ave., 387-9911, facebook.com/thestickhorses.

DanceParties&Classes

CommuniDance, a free-form dance group. Saturdays, 9-10 a.m. and Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m. By donation. Movement Arts Community Studio, 525 E. Fountain Blvd., #150, 963-1809, movementartscs.com.

Contact Improv, a parter dance form based on a shared point of contact. Wednesdays, 7 p.m. By donation. Movement Arts Community Studio, 525 E. Fountain Blvd., #150, 963-1809.

Country-Western Dance Party, easy line dances, cowboy cha-chas, two-steps and square dances with the help of instructors. No partner or experience required. Come at 7 p.m. for new-dancer instructions. Second and fourth Saturday of every month, 7:30-9:30 p.m. $1-$5. The Carriage Stop, 2700 W. Robinson St., 598-8624, roncounts.com.

Friday Night LIVE!, a dance fitness class featuring vendors, prizes and a pajama theme. Fri., Jan. 11, 6:30 p.m. $5. Springs Salsa & Dance Fitness East, 1220 Valley St., 591-1419, springssalsa.com.

Film

Fat, Sick and Nearly Dead, a free film event with free snacks from Whole Foods and opportunities to learn about juicing and plant-based diets. Sun., Jan. 13, 2 p.m. East Library, 5550 N. Union Blvd., vegetarian.meetup.com/534.

Food&Drink

Dinner With Our Chef in the Kitchen, a five-course dinner with wine prepared by Chef Larissa Warner. Reservations required. Thursdays, 7 p.m. $35 per person. Garden of the Gods Gourmet, 2528 W. Cucharras St., 471-2799, godsgourmet.net.

Geeks Who Drink Pub Quiz, Mondays, 8 p.m. Jack Quinn Irish Alehouse & Pub, 21 S. Tejon St., 385-0766, jackquinnspub.com. Tuesdays, 8 p.m. Tony's Bar, 311 N. Tejon St., 228-6566, tonysdowntownbar.com. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. McCabe's Tavern, 520 S. Tejon St., 633-3300, mccabestavern.com.

"Healthy Asian Fusion," a potentially three-part cooking class on Asian cooking techniques. Tues., Jan 15, 6 p.m. $50-$115. Garden of the Gods Gourmet, 2528 W. Cucharras St., 471-2799, godsgourmet.net.

Passport to Piemonte, a five-course, five-wine dinner benefitting Urban Peak. Tues., Jan 15, 6 p.m. $49. Pizzeria Rustica, 2527 W. Colorado Ave., 475-9700, pizzeriarustica.com.

Tuesday Night Karma Hour, a weekly happy hour with a twist: each week Bristol will donate $1 from each pint sold to a charity. This week, the Karma Hour will raise money for the Incline Friends. Tuesdays, 5 p.m. Bristol Brewing Co., 1647 S. Tejon St., 633-2555, bristolbrewing.com.

Winter Farmers Market, a selection of local seasonal goods including vegetables, apples, eggs, cheese, bread and meats as well as soap and alpaca-wool yarn. Second Saturday of every month, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; through March 30. Ute Pass Cultural Center, 210 E. Midland Ave., Woodland Park, 689-3133, woodlandparkfarmersmarket.com.

GetInvolved

Educating Children of Color Summit, a day-long event for high schoolers, college students under 21, their parents, and professionals, featuring speakers such as: authors Victor Villaseñor and Marianne Williamson, and U.S. Forest Service supervisor Jerri Marr. Pre-registration required. Sat., Jan. 12, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. $25 (free for students and parents). CC's Worner Campus Center, 902 N. Cascade Ave., 389-6607, educatingchildrenofcolor.org.

Falcon/Peyton Relay for Life Kick-Off Rally, a chance to honor cancer survivors and get the 2013 fundraising efforts of the American Cancer Society Relay for Life of Falcon/Peyton off to a dynamic start. Mon., Jan. 14, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Sand Creek High School, 7005 N. Carefree Circle, 491-2902, falconpeytonrfl@yahoo.com, falconpeytonrelay.org.

Wildfire Awareness and Emergency Preparedness Neighborhood Meeting, a meeting with Fire Chief Rich Brown, Fire Marshal Bret Lacey and Office of Emergency Management Manager Bret Waters, who will discuss wildfire mitigation tactics, ways to prepare for an emergency, evacuation planning and more. Tues., Jan 15, 6:30 p.m. Cheyenne Mountain High School, 1200 Cresta Road, 475-6110, tinyurl.com/bbkcu4r.

Health&Healing

Create Your Weight, a six-week weight-loss course led by a registered dietician. RSVP by Jan. 9 for the beginning class on Jan. 14. $130. Memo-

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rial Hospital Healthlink, 5360 N. Academy Blvd., #220, 444-2273, memorialhealthsystem.com.

Manitou Yoga, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 8 a.m. Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, thebac.org.

Medicine Wheel and 12 Steps for Youth, a three- to four-month course for youths who are at-risk for substance abuse. $15. Lotus Center for Self-Discovery, 2860 S. Circle Drive, #120, 229-8280, lotuscenterco.org.

PTSD Peer-Led Support Group, a support group for the spouses or significant others of veterans or current military personnel suffering with PTSD. Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m. Veterans' Affairs Clinic, 25 N. Spruce St., #207, 685-1965.

PTSD Support Group, for soldiers experiencing nightmares, flashbacks, insomnia, irritability, and/or hyper-vigilance. Meet with other soldiers who are experiencing the same symptoms. Facilitated by a licensed therapist. Confidential. Covered by Tricare. Tuesdays, Thursdays, 4-5:30 p.m. Soldier Life Center, 1767 S. Eighth St., #100, 471-0800, soldierlifecenter.com.

Holiday

Christmas Tree Recycling Program, have Boy Scout Troop 78 dispose of your tree through either bringing it to Eagleview Middle School, Rampart High School, the U.S. Air Force Academy or the Western Museum of Mining and Industry for $10; or having them pick it up for $15. Through Jan. 13, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. 428-5402, sites.google.com/site/usafatroop78.

Treecycle Your Christmas Tree, a chance to dispose of your Christmas tree. Held at Rocky Top Resources (1755 E. Las Vegas St.). Through Jan. 31, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. $5. 520-7878, treecyclecos.org.

Kids&Family

Bubble Time with Friends, a storytime for babies up to 12 months old, featuring songs and bouncing action rhymes. Fridays, 10 a.m.; through Jan. 25. High Prairie Library, 7035 Old Meridian Road, 593-8000, ppld.org.

Nature Program: Magpies, a story hour for preschoolers with a craft to make and take home. Reservations recommended. Fri., Jan. 11, 10 a.m. Garden of the Gods Visitor & Nature Center, 1805 N. 30th St., 219-0108, gardenofgods.com.

Lectures&Learning

PICK **Astronaut Panel,** a conversation with former astronauts Kevin Chilton, Jim Dutton and Jeff Ashby. RSVP by Jan. 11. Sat., Jan. 12, 2 p.m. $5 donation. Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum, 215 S. Tejon St., 385-5990, cspm.org.

PICK **Breakfast with the Journal — Three Hot Topics that will Impact Local Industry in 2013 — Healthcare Policy; Oil & Gas; Sequestration,** a morning devoted to networking and learning. The breakfast will feature such speakers as: Mike Scialdone of Memorial Hospital/University of Colorado Health and Sean Conway of Weld County, who will speak on the "economic benefits of having oil and gas in a region." RSVP to attend. Tues., Jan. 15, 7 a.m. $26-$31. Antlers Hilton, 4 S. Cascade Ave., 634-5905, csbj.com.

"An Evening with Teddy Roosevelt," a live portrayal of the famous president by Don Moon, in this case discussing Timothy Egan's book *The Big Burn: Teddy Roosevelt and the Fire that Saved America*. Following the show, a book discussion will be held. Thurs., Jan. 10, 6:30 p.m. Free. CC's Armstrong Hall, 14 E. Cache la Poudre St., 389-6000, coloradocollege.edu.

Neighborhood and Business Watch Program Training, a free class given by the Colorado Springs Police Department. No RSVP required. Sat., Jan. 12, 1 p.m. CSPD Stetson Hills Area Command, 4110 Tutt Blvd., 444-7206.

Tax Talks, a chance to get free tax advice from H&R Block professionals and the Pikes Peak Library District on a variety of topics including property ownership, family tax credits and the Affordable Care Act. Topics, times and locations vary by date; call for details. Mondays-Thursdays, Saturdays; through Jan. 30. 369-8326.

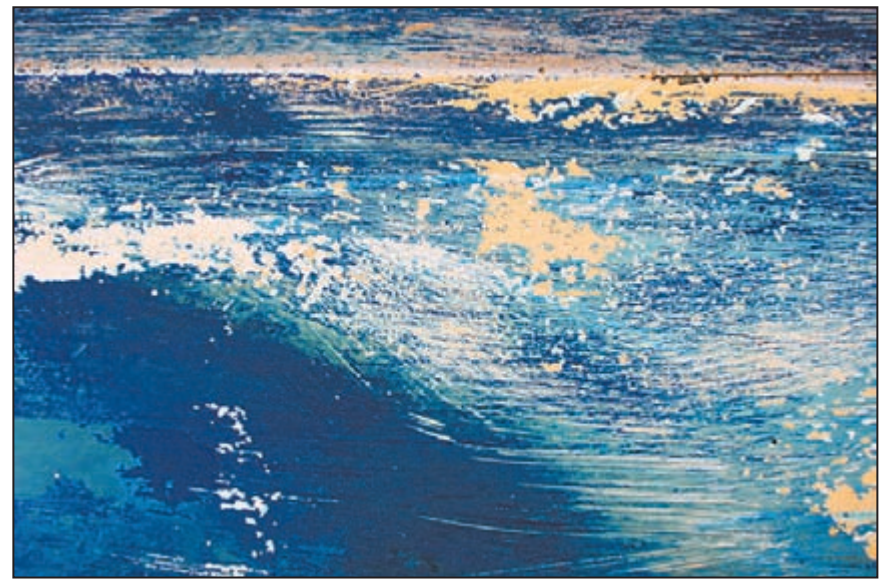
LiteraryEvents

PICK **Colorado Springs Writers Reading Series,** an open mic for poets and writers with featured speakers. Fri., Jan. 11, 7:30 p.m. Free. Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, thebac.org.

"Hear Here" Poetry Open Mic, an all-ages poetry open mic hosted by Poetry 719. Second and third Saturday of every month, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Movement Arts Community Studio, 525 E. Fountain Blvd., #150, 964-4499, tinyurl.com/hearhere719.

The Story Project, a live telling of stories from Ruth Adele, David Fein, Patrick McConnell and others. Fri., Jan. 11, 7 p.m. $5. Marmalade at Smokebrush, 219 W. Colorado Ave., #210, 444-1012, smokebrush.org.

Winter Wonderland Tales, a kick-off party for the Pikes Peak Library District's adult reading program, which offers prizes for those who read eight books by March 11. Fri., Jan. 11, 1-3 p.m. East Library, 5550 N. Union Blvd., ppld.org.



PICK **Kreuser Gallery,** 218 W. Colorado Ave., 630-6347, abigailkreusergallery.com. *Photography by Tim Davis*, a solo show by this artist who says, "Old, worn, weathered, and well-used industrial objects often hold the greatest attraction for me since those surfaces provide rich material for my imagination." Next door, in the Aha Gallery, find work by Jack Risley. Through Jan. 31.

SpecialEvents

All Souls Unitarian Universalist 120th Anniversary of Church Building, a Founder's Day service followed by a special reception with tours of the building, information on its historic background and more. Sun., Jan. 13, 10:30 a.m. All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 730 N. Tejon St., 633-7717, asuuc.net.

Festival Fridays, a chance to rock with Suga' Bear & the Show Time Band, as well as enjoy drinks and food. Proceeds benefit the center. Fri., Jan. 11, 5:30 p.m. $5-$6. Sangre de Cristo Arts Center, 210 N. Santa Fe Ave., Pueblo, 719/295-7200, sdc-arts.org.

First Anniversary, a party for the Little London Market and Auction House 109, thanking the community for making its inaugural year a success. Fri., Jan. 11, 4-7 p.m. Auction House 109, 109 S. Sierra Madre St., 632-5588, littlelondonmarket.com.

The Great Fruitcake Toss, the 18th annual bonanza of ballistic baked goods, with Travel Channel videographers filming Fruitcake Dodgeball on-site for *Edge of America*. Entry fee is at least one nonperishable food item for local food banks. Sat., Jan. 12, 9 a.m. Manitou Springs High

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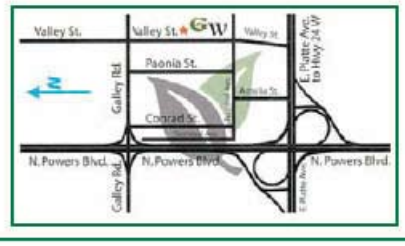

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Shoestring Shoppe Crawl, a chance to shop some of downtown Colorado Springs' best boutiques with drinks, discounts and prizes at every shop. A portion of proceeds will go to giveautism.com. Sun., Jan. 13, 1-5 p.m. $25. 362-0693, shoestringevents.biz/crawl.

Spirituality

"Buddhist Psychology of Understanding the Mind," a series investigating the mind. Thursdays; through Feb. 14. $7-$10. Center for Spiritual Living, 3685 Jeannine Drive, 596-6894, cslcs.org.

Spirituality Group, Thursdays, 7-9 p.m. Black Cat Books, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, manitoubooks.com.

Springs Mountain Sangha, offering Zen meditation sessions Monday evenings from 6:10-8 p.m. (newcomers please arrive at 5:45); Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 a.m.; and Saturdays 6:30-8:30 a.m. CC's Shove Memorial Chapel, 1010 N. Nevada Ave., 685-1994, smszen.org.

Sports&Recreation

Coquette's Incline Club, a Saturday morning workout in rain, snow or shine; also enjoy socializing, coffee and food. Ten climbs earns a free T-shirt. Saturdays, 8 a.m. Coquette's Bistro & Bakery, 915 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-2420, coquettesbistroandbakery.com.

First & Main Run Club, weekly 3K and 5K runs with monthly prizes for club members. Held in the field behind Rock Bottom. Wednesdays, 6 p.m. Rock Bottom, 3316 Cinema Point Drive, 550-3586, facebook.com/rbrunclub.

Learn to Fence, a new series of beginner-level classes for youths age 9-14 from the Front Range Fencing Club, starting Jan. 10. All equipment provided. Through Jan 10. $85. Chinook Trail Elementary School, 11795 Grand Lawn Circle, 339-5495, frontrangefencingclub@comcast.net, frontrangefencing.tripod.com.

Muldooniacs Running Club, weekly runs along the Homestead Trail, with a free drink after every run for of-age participants. Wednesdays, 6 p.m. José Muldoon's - Carefree Circle, 5710 S. Carefree Circle, 574-5673, josemuldoons.com.

PICK **SOCO Loco Competition #4,** an amateur climbing competition. Jan. 11 is for all non-high-schoolers, and Jan. 12 is for those in high school. Fri., Jan 11, 5:30 p.m. and Sat., Jan. 12, 8:30 a.m. CityRock, 21 N. Nevada Ave., 634-9099, compclimbing.com.

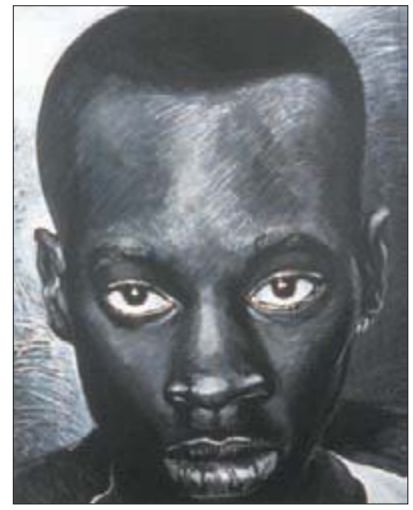
SouthSide Johnny's Running Club, a running club with the added benefit of CrossFit, or "workouts comprised of constantly varied functional movements (like pushing, pulling, squatting, lifting, running) executed at high intensity." Wednesdays, 6 p.m. SouthSide Johnny's, 528 S. Tejon St., 444-8487, tinyurl.com/ssjrunning.

University Village Colorado Running Club, a club where you can run, jog or walk on one on-site loop of a single mile, or two others running north or south on the Pikes Peak Greenway Trail for four or six miles round-trip, respectively. Meet by Smashburger to check in. Mondays, 5:15 p.m. Free. University Village Colorado, 5230 N. Nevada Ave., 632-5000, uvcrunningclub.com.

Stage

Broadway Bound, a performance by the University of Northern Colorado Music Theatre Showcase followed by a talkback with the audience, illustrating their craft. Fri., Jan. 11, 7 p.m. Free, donations of $10-$15 accepted. CC's Packard Hall, 5 W. Cache la Poudre St., 389-6607, coloradocollege.edu.

Cirque du Soleil: *Quidam,* a performance by this world-renowned, all-human circus, following the story of a girl who enters an imaginary world, and



PICK **Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center,** 30 W. Dale St., 634-5581, csfineartscenter.org. *Floyd D. Tunson: Son of Pop,* a career-spanning exhibition of the works of longtime Palmer High School art instructor, and celebrated artist, Floyd Tunson. Through Jan. 20.

characters "who encourage her to free her soul." Jan. 9-13. $28-$75. World Arena, 3185 Venetucci Blvd., 477-2121, worldarena.com.

The Trial, a new adaptation of Kafka's story about a man put on trial before a shadowy authority for an unknown crime. Fridays-Sundays, 8 p.m.; through Jan. 27. $5-$10. THEATREdART, 128 N. Nevada Ave., 684-3802, theatredart.org.

VolunteerOpportunities

North End Adult Day Care seeks volunteers to play games, sing, make arts and crafts and more with North End's seniors, who are in need of memory care. Call for more information. 351-8786, northendadultdaycare.com.

Odyssey HealthCare Hospice is seeking volunteers to offer companionship to people with terminal illnesses by sharing your talents as a musician, artist or pet therapist or just by listening. Volunteers must complete training, call for dates. 573-4166, rshardy@odsyhealth.com.

Peak Area Council of Governments seeks volunteers with good clerical and customer service skills to help seniors improve their independence and quality of life by working in the Senior Information and Assistance Center (SIAC). Time commitment: 4-7 hours per week. 471-7080, jwilkinson@ppacg.org.

Pikes Peak Hospice & Palliative Care is seeking volunteers — especially on the weekends — in various capacities, such as working in prescription animal therapy or handling courier duties, or becoming vigil volunteers (who sit with dying patients) and Helping Hands volunteers who perform various chores after a patient dies. Pikes Peak Hospice & Palliative Care, 2550 Tenderfoot Hill St., 633-3400 ext. 600, pikespeakhospice.org.

Spirit of America Response (SOAR) seeks volunteers for its food pantry and other programs for the military community. Call or e-mail for more info. 229-8280, dave@lotuscenterco.org.

STS Foundation seeks host families for international students spending a year in America. 800/522-4678, stsfoundation.org.

MORE
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How to Submit a Listing

Listings is a free service we offer to our readers. If you'd like to publicize an event or notice, send us the details — who, what, where, when, how much and publishable contact information — in writing **by Wednesday at noon for the following Wednesday's paper**. If humanly possible, please do so at csindy.com: Simply click "Submit an event" at the bottom of the homepage, and the rest is self-explanatory. Other means of submission include e-mail (listings@csindy.com) or fax (577-4107). One-time events typically make it into the issue on the Wednesday leading up to that event; ongoing events sometimes are included in additional issues. That said, events are included on a space-available basis, meaning we can't ever guarantee a listing will make it into print. So we strongly discourage relying on Listings as your sole source of publicity — if you'd like to guarantee placement in the *Indy*, you can purchase an ad in our classifieds section or in our retail advertising section by calling 577-4545. Questions? E-mail listings@csindy.com or call 577-4545.

StrangerThanFiction

Curses, foiled again

Brazilian fire officials rescued a prisoner who tried to crawl through a hole in a prison wall but became trapped because he was too fat to fit through the opening. "The other prisoners tried to push him, but he stayed stuck in the wall," fire department Lt. Tiago Costa said. "He started screaming in pain, and that was when the prison guards were alerted." (London's *UKMetro*)

Police quickly identified Michael David Stoltenberg, 27, as the hit-and-run driver who fled on foot after rear-ending another vehicle in Salt Lake City, because he left behind not only his wrecked car, registered in his name, but also his two children, ages 9 and 2. (*The Salt Lake Tribune*)

Handyman hell

Authorities accused Jason DeJesus, 36, and Chanelle Troedson, 33, of luring a handyman to their northern California home, where they beat him and held him against his will for seven hours. They forced him to repair their dishwasher and other appliances, fix a broken door and perform other maintenance tasks at the couple's five-bedroom home, which includes a beach volleyball court, a pool and tennis courts.

Sheriff's Sgt. José Cardoza said next the couple forced the fix-it man to accompany them to another home to make more repairs. When they stopped for gas and snacks, leaving him alone in the vehicle, he ran to a neighboring home and called 911. (Associated Press)

Firearm follies

A police officer serving a warrant in Shoreline, Wash., accidentally shot himself in the buttocks. Police Commander Leslie Burns said the officer's firearm discharged after he took a man into custody. (Seattle's KOMO-TV)

A 45-year-old man bow-hunting alone in a Maryland wildlife management area shot himself in the calf with an unregistered .22-caliber pistol. He called 911, summoning police and a Maryland State Police helicopter to the heavily forested area. The hunter fired a couple of rounds to help rescuers locate him, barely missing the chopper. "The dispatcher told him, 'Please stop,'" Montgomery County Police Officer Rebecca Innocenti said, noting the hunter was airlifted to the hospital. (*The Washington Times*)

Say anything

A federal appeals court overturned the conviction of a former drug sales representative who suggested a doctor use a prescription drug for a purpose other than intended. In the case against Alfred Caronia, the drug was Xyrem, which is approved to treat the sleep disorder narcolepsy. Investigators recorded Caronia telling a doctor the drug could also treat insomnia, fibromyalgia and other conditions the Food and Drug Administration hadn't approved them for. The U.S. 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan ruled Caronia's sales pitch was free speech protected by the First Amendment. (*Los Angeles Times*)

Excuse of the week

When police found a 2-year-old child and 5-month-old infant locked inside a running vehicle outside a restaurant in Broken Arrow, Okla., they went to question their father, Jason Daniel Murray, 31, finding him in the bar. The report said Murray denied leaving his children in the car and insisted "someone else must have put the kids in the car while he was inside." (Tulsa's KOTV-TV)

Weapons of choice

Police accused Keith Paro, 34, of battering his girlfriend with a 4-foot python during a domestic altercation in West Springfield, Mass. (Springfield's *The Republican*)

When the clerk at a Seattle gas station tried to stop a man and a woman stealing a six-pack of beer, the man hit the clerk in the head with a ukulele. Detective Renee Witt said the couple fled. (Seattle's KIRO-TV)

Mary and Mohammad

Muslim enrollment is increasing at U.S. Catholic colleges and universities, according to both students and administrators, who indicate the Muslim population has doubled over the past decade, while the number of Muslim women has tripled. One reason given is that Muslims, whether from the United States or abroad, prefer a place where talk of religious beliefs and adherence to a religious code are accepted and even encouraged. "I like the fact that there's faith, even if it's not my faith, and I feel my faith is respected," Maha Haroon, a pre-med undergraduate at Creighton University, said. (*The New York Times*)

Slightest provocation

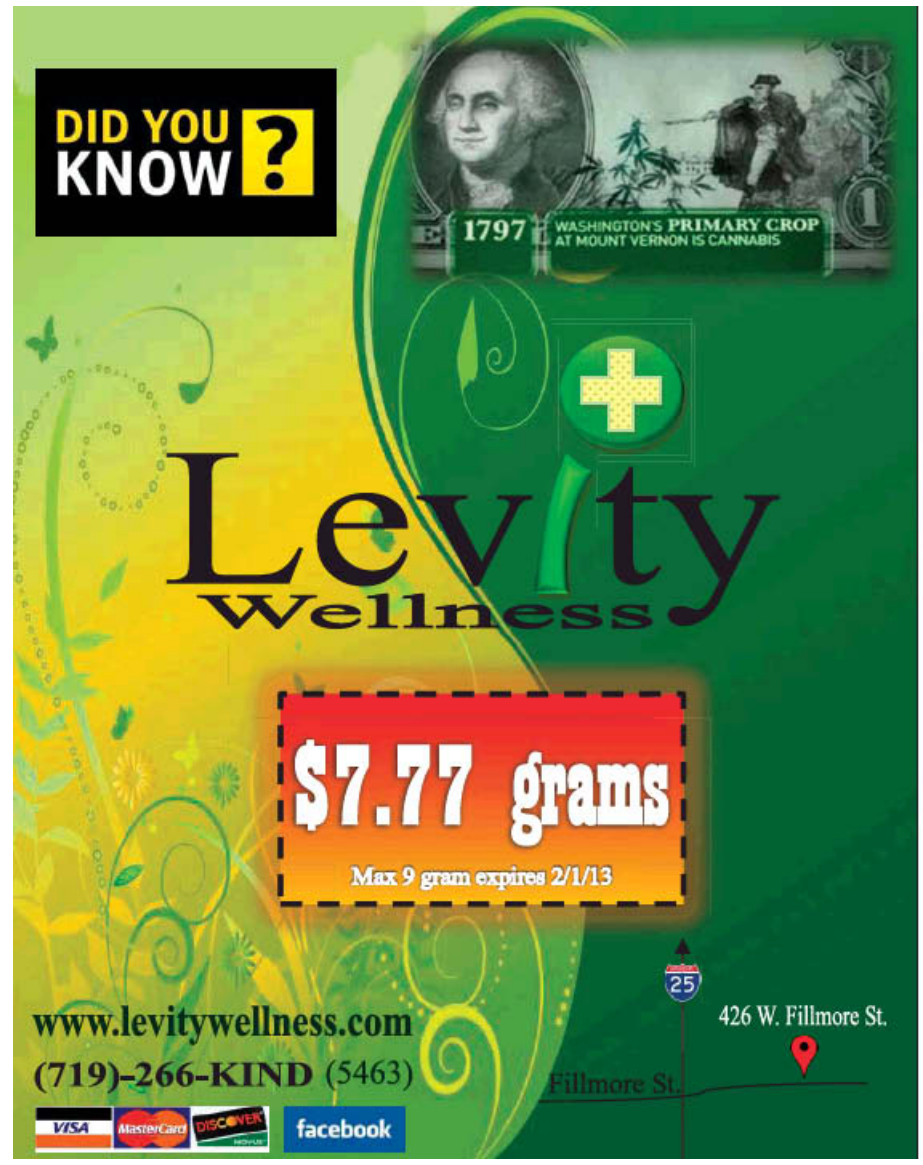
A sheriff's deputy who arrested David A. Kappheim, 60, in Lake Park, Fla., after his girlfriend reported he threatened to kill her, said Kappheim admitted trying to kill her three other times because "he was very conservative and she was a liberal." Inside their apartment, the deputy found documents suggesting that Kappheim is obsessed with FOX News and the Republican Party, and may be a danger to others. (*Palm Beach Post*)

No fun being God

The Dutch parliament revoked a long-standing, rarely enforced law making it a crime to insult God. The movement to decriminalize blasphemy intensified in the past decade during a national debate about free speech limits. Dutch law still bans insulting police officers or the monarch, Queen Beatrix. (Associated Press)

Compiled by Roland Sweet. Send clippings, citing source and date, to P.O. Box 8130, Alexandria, VA 22306.

Read more Stranger Than Fiction at csindy.com.



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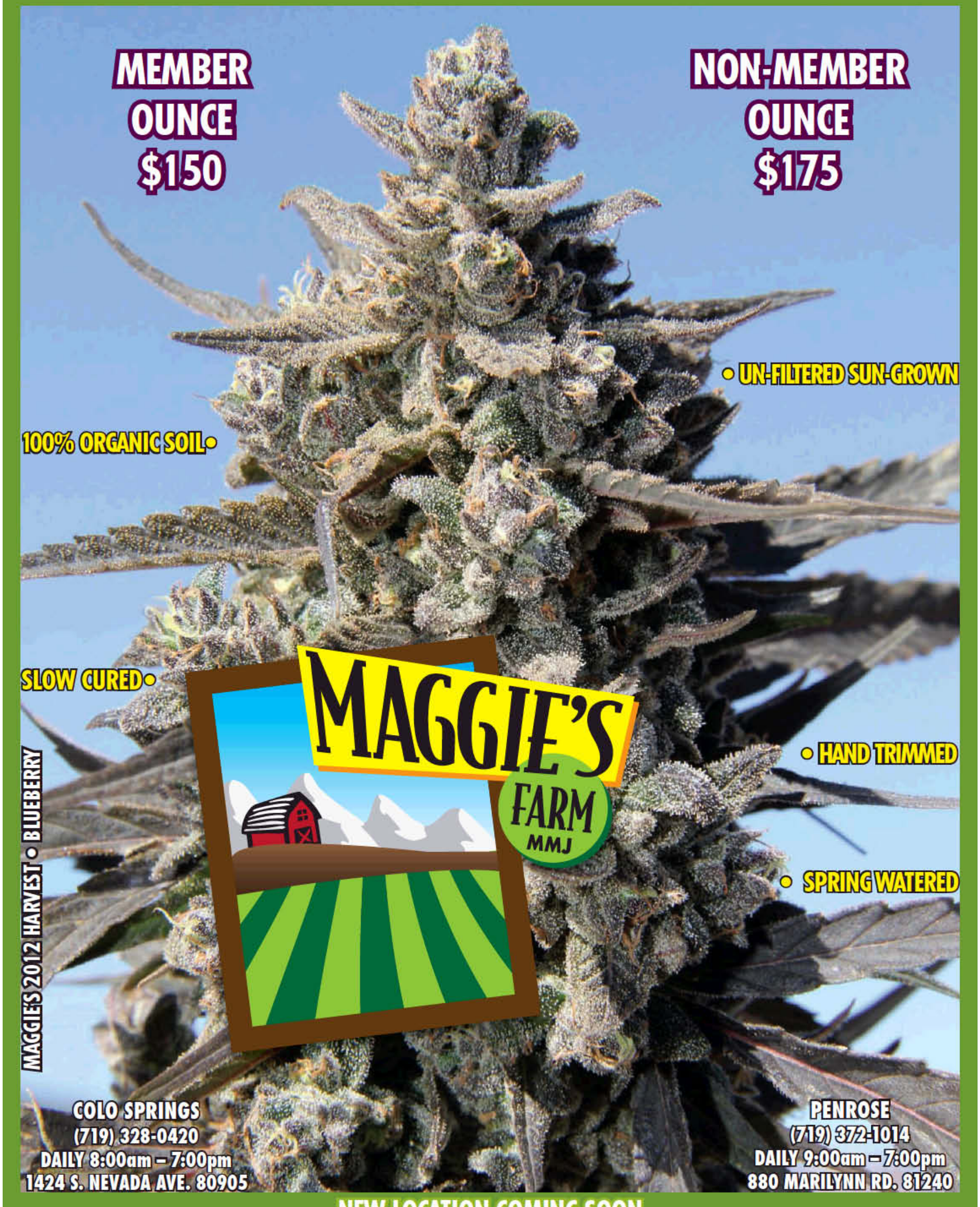
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Medical marijuana news of the week

Club med

There's a lot of noise right now around marijuana clubs. There's the Hive Co-Op in Lafayette, "billed as Colorado's first cannabis-friendly coffee and tea shop," as put by Boulder's *Daily Camera*; there's the A-64 Lounge that KOAA-TV reported KC Stark and Jack Roth want to start in Colorado Springs later this year; and then there's a local venture called **Club 710** (facebook.com/studio64club710).

Though that name might become Studio 64 once a physical location is found, right now Club 710 is operating something like a Meetup group, getting together at different spots. R&R Bar and Grill (460 N. Murray Blvd., 321/626-9469) is where the group held its initial membership drive last Sunday, says 710 co-owner Robert Tillery, noting it drew roughly 70 people; seventeen of them became members.

"A lot of recreational smokers haven't been able to go out and enjoy that social atmosphere that you get in a club or a bar setting, because they don't drink," says Tillery, who's running the group in conjunction with Weed Pimp Clothing. "And they really enjoyed being with like-minded individuals who could share different strains, suggestions and flavors, and talk about growing. ...

"A lot of people got to sample some different smoking methods. It's really like this whole community of recreational-slash-medical users who got together in a social setting for the first time in Colorado Springs."

A second membership drive for those 21 and up is set for 7 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 13 back at the grill. Ten bucks gets you in the door, with $5 going toward a membership. Club dues start at $20 for a month.

Tax that grass

When Colorado Speaker of the House **Mark Ferrandino** came through the *Independent* last week, he, along with Rep. Pete Lee and Rep.-elect Tony Exum, made it clear that a tax on recreational marijuana would be pushed in the House. Previous Colorado Springs legislators, including House Minority Leader Mark Waller and Senate President John Morse, have expressed doubts that they can be compelled to act by the provision in Amendment 64 that reads, "the General Assembly shall enact an excise tax ... not to exceed fifteen percent," but Ferrandino's going ahead anyway.

"The voters overwhelmingly passed Amendment 64 with a provision in there asking the Legislature to refer something to the ballot," he says. "And when you have tobacco [and] alcohol both having excise taxes on them, it makes no sense to have recreational marijuana *not* have an excise tax on it."

As for any Republican colleagues who may balk at either moving ahead with marijuana legislation, or a new tax: "If you don't like it, that's fine — then work to repeal it. But until it gets repealed or gets struck down by a court, then you have an obligation as a sitting, sworn legislator to uphold that constitution and implement that constitution."

— Bryce Crawford

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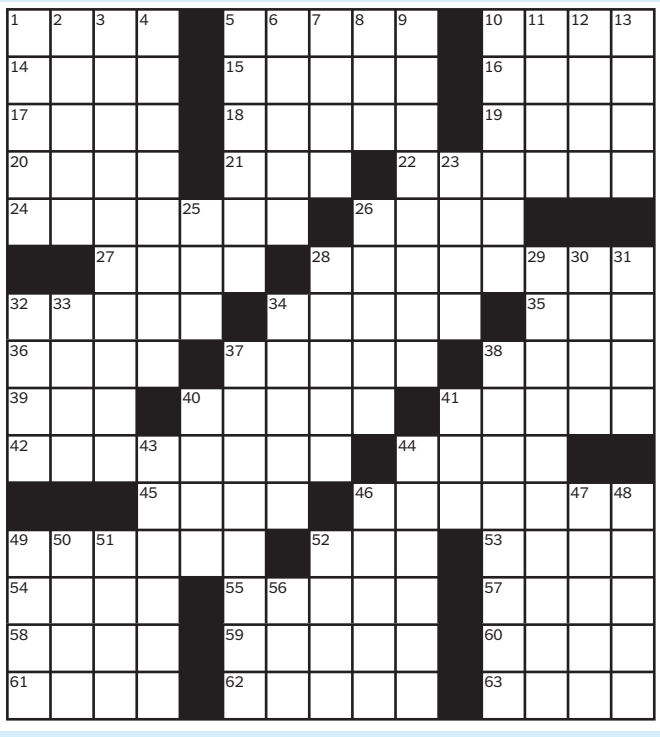

The New York Times Crossword

ACROSS

1 Needle holder
5 Substances high on the 49-Across
10 Ring
14 Federal watchdog agcy.
15 Complete
16 Swear
17 Half an Asian capital?
18 Cache
19 End of a haircut?
20 ___-engine
21 Stick (to)
22 Vixen feature
24 Leaned in one direction
26 "Typee" sequel
27 Verbalized
28 Won
32 Delivery person
34 Programs
35 Nigerian native
36 House starter or ender
37 Substance in the middle of the 49-Across
38 Program
39 Actress Long
40 Avid
41 Lifts
42 Contemporary of Aeschylus
44 N.L. East team, informally
45 Place for cargo
46 Fictional captive in carbonite
49 Theme of this puzzle
52 Mich. neighbor
53 Destructive pest
54 ___-Tass news agency
55 Foolable
57 DVR system
58 Pop
59 Hold off
60 Six-Day War leader Weizman
61 Some map lines: Abbr.
62 Substances low on the 49-Across
63 Capitol V.I.P.'s: Abbr.

DOWN

1 Bit of attire for Mr. Monopoly
2 "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" co-star
3 Arrange
4 Deli choice
5 Whole lot
6 Chipped in
7 Cargo vessel
8 E.E.C. part: Abbr.
9 More erotic
10 Unreal
11 Elliptical
12 "Fat chance!"
13 Pitcher
23 Entre ___
25 Lieutenant ___ of "Forrest Gump"
26 Command
28 Lugs
29 Speculate superficially
30 PayPal purchaser
31 Gets into
32 Dominates
33 "Charles in Charge" star
34 Imprisoned
37 Big name in flying
38 Beats
40 Subj. for a forest ranger
41 Recycling ___
43 Scarlett's kin
44 Futuristic weapons
46 Gathered, as bees
47 Energize
48 Olfactory ticklers
49 Do some online skulduggery
50 Place, as cargo
51 Women's rights pioneer Elizabeth ___ Stanton
52 Surcharge item in many hotels
56 Federal agcy. of 1946-75

For puzzle answers, please see pg. 45 *From NYT Syndicate*

AdviceGoddess

By Amy Alkon

His back to the wallet

My girlfriend of a year is enormously wealthy and very generous. Despite my protestations, she loves buying me nice clothes and other gifts, and appears to expect little or nothing in return except my love. I have a professional job but much more modest means. There's no way I can return her generosity in any material sense. How might I be able to give a visible and meaningful sign of my commitment to her? She wears rings on both hands with huge diamonds, and anything I might be able to afford would seem trivial by comparison. — Underfunded

It's a losing battle, giving jewelry to a woman who prompts thoughts like "Is that a diamond on your finger or have they discovered a new planet and given it to you to wear?"

You're actually lucky you can't take the spendy way out. It makes it too easy to drag a duffel bag of cash to the obvious places: the jewelry store, the cashmere store, the handbags-that-cost-more-than-some-compact-cars store. These items aren't exactly horrible gifts, but a better choice is "the gift that keeps on giving," which, I know, sounds like something you get from drinking the water in Mexico. It actually describes a feeling you give another person — the feeling that she's loved — through showing her that it means a lot to you to make her happy, and not just on Christmas, Valentine's Day, and days when you're trying to say you're sorry for doing something you shouldn't have.

'I'm paying attention to who you are.'

By truly listening when a woman talks and then using the intel you get to make her life happier, easier and more fun, you tell her a very loving thing: "I'm paying attention to who you are." You can say this by going out of your way to pick her up a latte or her favorite snack; by making a $50 book with your photos and captions about all the things you love about her (shutterfly.com, apple.com/ilife/print-products.html); by sending sweet, funny, 30-second videos you shoot of yourself on your phone; and by fixing things she didn't realize were unwieldy, uncomfortable, or broken until you made them better. In other words, any guy with a spare $100,000 lying around can buy a woman a ginormous diamond. It takes a really special guy to give her a bag of pinecones (assuming he's trying to remind her of happy times she spent at her family's cabin as a kid, and not just getting rid of tree litter he cleaned out of the bed of his pickup).

Fifty shades of gay

My girlfriend and I are lesbians in our mid 30s and totally committed. She's pretty and more feminine than I am and likes getting male attention, and she gets it — in restaurants, bars, pretty much anyplace public. Last night at dinner, some cute waiter dude was flirting with her, and she flirted back (nothing crazy, just teasing him, etc.). I got really upset. She apologized and reassured me that she's just playing, and that it was harmless because she wasn't flirting with a cute girl. Besides not getting why she's into this, I find myself resenting guys for not respecting our relationship, or worse, not even noticing it. — The Girlfriend

The next time a guy comes up and says, "Hi, I'm Jeremy. I'm your waiter," you could just grab your girlfriend's boob and say, "Hi, we're Samantha and Karen, and we're life partners." Otherwise, it's mostly a big straight world out there, so people won't always get that you're together — assuming you aren't dating Rachel Maddow or sporting matching crew cuts, grandpa cardigans and combat boots.

As for why your girlfriend flirts, flirting is a form of play — and a ploy. People, gay and straight, flirt their way to free drinks or a better deal at the tire shop, to get confirmation that they've still "got it," or to flex their charm to make themselves and other people feel good. (No, when the supermarket cashier teasingly cards the 9,000-year-old lady, it isn't because he's looking to get busy with her in the back seat of his car.)

If there's no reason to suspect your girlfriend is cheating on you, or would, and if she's only bantering briefly, not making you feel ignored, consider whether it's really her flirting you're upset about. (Maybe there are underlying insecurities or problems that need addressing?) It's generally a bad idea to cramp your partner's style, and especially when you know that her "relationship" with the waiter will end with her leaving him a tip — the monetary kind, not an idea of what it might take for him to slide her around on the Kinsey Scale.

***Got a problem? Write Amy Alkon, 171 Pier Ave, #280, Santa Monica, CA 90405, or e-mail adviceamy@aol.com (advicegoddess.com). Alkon is the author of* I See Rude People: One Woman's Battle To Beat Some Manners Into Impolite Society.**

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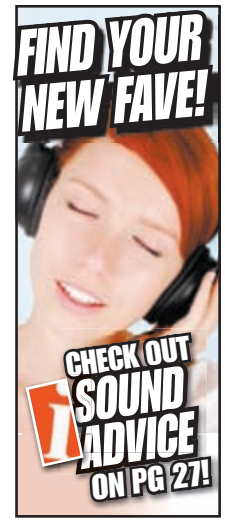

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Brainiac Alert!

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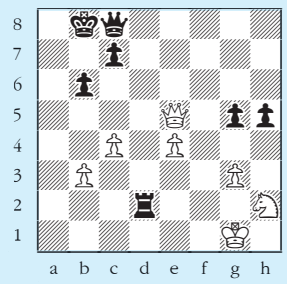

BLACK TO PLAY
Hint: Go after the king.
For puzzle answers, see page 45
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1−		12×	
2	1−		2÷
7+		2÷	
5+			3

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CHALLENGING

1−		18×		11+	7+
1−	2÷				
	3+	4	11+	60×	
3		11+		3−	
17+	3		4×		1−
				2	

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Fill the grid with digits so as not to repeat a number in any row or column, and so that the digits within each heavily outlined cage will produce the target number show by using addition, subtraction, multiplication or division. A 4x4 grid uses the digits 1,2,3,4, while a 6x6 grid uses the numbers 1-6.
For puzzle answers, see page 45

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RULES
1. Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.
2. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.
3. Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

FreeWillAstrology

By Rob Brezsny

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): What does it mean when the dwarf planet Pluto impacts a key point in your horoscope? For Capricorn gymnast Gabby Douglas, it seemed to be profoundly empowering. During the time Pluto was close to her natal sun during last year's Summer Olympics, she won two gold medals, one with her team and one by herself. Luck had very little to do with her triumph. Hard work, self-discipline and persistence were key factors. I'm predicting that Pluto's long cruise through the sign of Capricorn will give you an opportunity to earn a Gabby Douglas-like achievement in your own sphere — if, that is, you can summon the same level of willpower and determination that she did. Now would be an excellent time to formally commit yourself to the glorious cause that excites you the most.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Writing at io9.com, Charlie Jane Anders provides "10 Signs You Could Be the Chosen Savior." Among the clues are the following: 1. "How often does someone comes up to you on the street, point at you, gibber something inarticulate, and run away?" 2. "How many robot/clone duplicates of yourself have you come across?" 3. "Is there a blurry black-and-white photo or drawing from history that sort of looks like you?" 4. "Have you achieved weird feats that nobody could explain, but which nobody else witnessed?" Now would be a good time for you to take this test, Aries. You're in a phase of your astrological cycle when your dormant superpowers may finally be awakening — a time when you might need to finally claim a role you've previously been unready for. (Read Anders' article here: tinyurl.com/AreYouChosen.)

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): "Dear Rob the Astrologer: I have a big question for you. If I could get access to a time machine, where would you suggest I should go? Is there a way to calculate the time and place where I could enjoy favorable astrological connections that would bring out the best in me? — Curious Taurus." Dear Curious: Here are some locations that might be a good fit for you Tauruses right now: Athens, Greece in 459 B.C.; Constantinople in 1179; Florence, Italy in 1489; New York in 2037. In general, you would thrive wherever there are lots of bright people co-creating a lively culture that offers maximum stimulation. You need to have your certainties challenged and your mind expanded and your sense of wonder piqued.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Will archaeologists find definitive evidence of the magical lost continent of Atlantis in 2013? Probably not. How about Shambhala, the mythical kingdom in Central Asia where the planet's greatest spiritual masters are said to live? Any chance it will be discovered by Indiana Jones-style fortune hunters? Again, not likely. But I do think there's a decent chance that sometime in the next seven months, many of you Geminis will discover places, situations and circumstances that will be, for all intents and purposes, magical and mythical.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): There's a spot in the country of Panama where you can watch the sun rise in the east over the Pacific Ocean. In another Panamanian location, you can see the sun set in the west over the Atlantic Ocean. Nothing weird is involved. Nothing twisted or unearthly. It's simply a quirk of geography. I suspect that a similar situation will be at work in your life sometime soon. Things may seem out of place. Your sense of direction might be off-kilter, and even your intuition could seem to be playing tricks on you. But don't worry. Have no fear. Life is simply asking you to expand your understanding of what "natural" and "normal" are.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Metaphorically speaking, a pebble was in your shoe the whole past week. You kept thinking, "Pretty soon I've got to take a minute to get rid of that thing," and yet you never did. Why is that? While it wasn't enormously painful, it distracted you just enough to keep you from giving your undivided attention to the important tasks at hand. Now here's a news flash: The damn pebble is still in your shoe. Can I persuade you to remove it? Please?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Even when you know exactly what you want, it's sometimes crucial for you not to accomplish it too fast. It may be that you need to mature more before you're ready to handle your success. It could be that if you got all of your heart's desire too quickly and easily, you wouldn't develop the vigorous willpower that the quest was meant to help you forge. The importance of good timing can't be underestimated, either: In order for you to take full advantage of your dream-come-true, many other factors in your life have to be in place and arranged just so. With those thoughts in mind, Virgo, I offer you this prediction for 2013: A benevolent version of a perfect storm is headed your way.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Artists who painted images in caves 30,000 years ago did a pretty good job of depicting the movements of four-legged animals like horses. In fact, they were more skilled than today's artists. Even the modern experts who illustrate animal anatomy textbooks don't match the accuracy of the people who decorated cave walls millennia ago. So says a study reported in livescience.com (tinyurl.com/CaveArtMagic). I'd like to suggest this is a useful metaphor for you to consider, Libra. There's some important task that the old you did better than the new you does. Now would be an excellent time to recapture the lost magic.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): After evaluating your astrological omens for the coming months, I've decided to name you Scorpios the "Top Sinners of the Year" for 2013. What that means is that I suspect your vices will be more inventive and more charming than those of all the other signs. Your so-called violations may have the effect of healing some debilitating habit. In fact, your "sins" may not be immoral or wicked at all. They might actually be beautiful transgressions that creatively transcend the status quo; they might be imaginative improvements on the half-assed way that things have always been done. To ensure you're always being ethical in your outlaw behavior, be committed to serving the greater good at least as much as your own selfish interests.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Here's the horoscope I hope to be able to write for you a year from now: "Your mind just kept opening further and further during these past 12 months, Sagittarius — way beyond what I ever imagined possible. Congrats! Even as you made yourself more innocent and receptive than you've been in a long time, you were constantly getting smarter and sharpening your ability to see the raw truth of what was unfolding. Illusions and misleading fantasies did not appeal to you. Again, kudos!"

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): "Diplomacy is the art of saying 'nice doggie' until you can find a rock," said humorist Will Rogers. I hope you've been taking care of the "nice doggie" part, Aquarius — holding the adversarial forces and questionable influences at bay. As for the rock: I predict you will find it any minute now, perhaps even within an hour of reading this horoscope. Please keep in mind that you won't necessarily have to throw the rock for it to serve its purpose. Merely brandishing it should be enough.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Do you know the word "cahoots"? Strictly speaking, it means to be in league with allies who have the same intentions as you do; to scheme and dream with confederates whose interests overlap with yours. Let's expand that definition a little further and make it one of your central themes in the coming week. For your purposes, "cahoots" will signify the following: to conspire with like-minded companions as you cook up some healthy mischief or whip up an interesting commotion or instigate a benevolent ruckus.

HOMEWORK: To check out my three-part audio forecasts of your destiny in 2013, go to tinyurl.com/BigPicture2013.

Go to **RealAstrology.com** to check out Rob Brezsny's **EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES** and **DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES**. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at **1-877-873-4888** or 1-900-950-7700.

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	7					9		
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9			2		6			4
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		6					9	

SUDUKO X

Complete the grid so that every row, column, diagonal and 3x3 box contain the numbers 1 to 9. Use logic to define the answers. Answers on page 45

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Custom 5025 sq ft stucco walkout rancher on 2 ½ acres w/ separate 690 sq ft guest house. 4 beds, 4 ½ baths total. 3-car garage. RV garage. 2-tiered deck w/ hot tub. Custom waterfall & 2 ponds. 4 fireplaces. Tile roof. Central air. Wet bar. Hickory cabinets. Hardwood floors. Open great room floor plan. Lots of glass & sunshine. Towering pines & total privacy in Bent Tree. MLS# 713799

1211 Woodland Valley Ranch Dr. $695,000
Stunning 5736 sq ft custom stucco walkout 4 bed, 5 bath rancher on 1.26 acres 1 block away from Shining Mountain Golf Course in Woodland Park. Stainless steel, slab granite, knotty hickory, walls of windows. Pikes Peak view. This house has it all. Walkout bsmnt. 4 fireplaces. Wet bar. Open great room floor plan w/ 12' ceilings. Trees, sunshine, & total class. MLS# 779059

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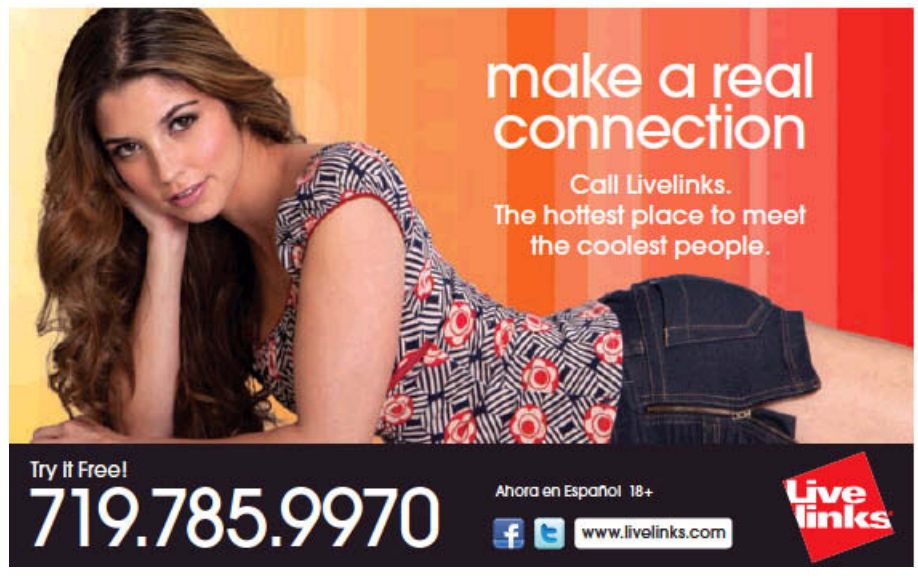

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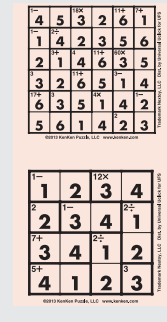

Crossword

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CHESS QUIZ

From page 43:
1. … Qf8! (threatens 1. … Qf2ch with mate to follow).

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EndZone

By Ralph Routon

Nothing easy for Broncos

So you're **John Fox** or **Peyton Manning**, waiting to see what team would become the Denver Broncos' first playoff opponent.

Were you hoping for Indianapolis, and an emotional reunion with Manning facing the Colts and **Andrew Luck**? Or Baltimore, since the Broncos thumped the Ravens last month at Baltimore in a game that mattered to both teams?

Most likely, Fox, Manning and everyone else in Denver's organization wanted Indianapolis. Why? Everyone saw the answer last Sunday, as the revitalized Ravens mashed the Colts.

So now we head into the weekend of conference semifinals, most of which could go either way. The underdogs have momentum from already having won a playoff game. The favorites might be rested, but they also might be rusty. Let's look at the matchups, picking those winners and the two Super Bowl participants.

SPORTS SHOT

Who's No. 2? Certainly not Notre Dame, after losing 42-14 to Alabama. Oregon earned the final No. 2 ranking, but what about Texas A&M, which won at 'Bama? Playoffs, please.

Bad taste Colorado might take a while to get over having a huge men's basketball win at Arizona taken away by officials blowing an instant-replay review.

Gossage's ire Can't argue with local hero Rick "Goose" Gossage's views on what he calls "known cheaters" like Barry Bonds perhaps making the Hall of Fame, telling the *Denver Post*: "It hurts me to even think about it. ... What is going on in this world?"

Big moment The best hockey news of the past week wasn't the National Hockey League apparently coming back to salvage its season, but Team USA whipping Canada and Sweden to win the world junior title.

• **Baltimore at Denver, 2:30 p.m., Saturday, CBS:** The Broncos are favored by more than a touchdown, which ignores the factors that give the Ravens a chance. They're healthier on defense than they've been all season, with **Ray Lewis** and **Terrell Suggs** back. Baltimore quarterback **Joe Flacco** is coming off a strong game, and runner **Ray Rice** can pop a big play at any moment.

Denver should be refreshed, and Manning's postseason experience will help considerably. But the Broncos also need their defense to come up big, or their dreams could crash quickly. Unless **Von Miller**, **Elvis Dumervil** and crew dominate, this battle will be tense to the end. My guess: Denver, 23-20.

• **Green Bay at San Francisco, 6 p.m., Saturday, FOX: Aaron Rodgers** and the Packers appear to be peaking at the right time, as they did two years ago in going all the way. But they face a stiff challenge against the 49ers, who are so tough at home on defense and also have found a new offensive gear since **Colin Kaepernick** replaced **Alex Smith** at quarterback.

Rodgers certainly is capable of carrying Green Bay by himself, especially with **Greg Jennings** back to help the receiving corps. But can the Packers run the ball well enough to win, and can their defense contain Kaepernick along with all of his weapons? Something tells me those answers will be no. My guess: San Francisco, 31-23.

• **Seattle at Atlanta, 11 a.m., Sunday, FOX:** Just how good are the Falcons? This is their moment, but they were in the same spot two years ago and Green Bay ambushed them. Surely quarterback **Matt Ryan**, throwing to **Julio Jones** and **Roddy White** as well as tight end **Tony Gonzalez**, won't let another nightmare happen.

But then again, Seattle quarterback **Russell Wilson** has taken his team further than any other rookie (**Robert Griffin III** and Luck are spectators now), and **Marshawn Lynch** belongs among the league's elite runners. More impressively, the Seahawks defense has been swarming, swaggering and seething — enough to pull off the upset. My guess: Seattle, 27-20.

• **Houston at New England, 2:30 p.m., Sunday, CBS: Tom Brady** and the Patriots already have hammered the Texans at Foxborough, 42-14, so why not again? Could happen, but the Texans righted their ship in their wild-card win against Cincinnati, and their defense should hold up better this time.

For the Texans to have any shot, quarterback **Matt Schaub** has to avoid big mistakes and runner **Arian Foster** must rip apart the Patriots. They might for a while, but not four quarters. My guess: New England, 38-27.

Those outcomes would mean New England at Denver for the AFC title, and Seattle at San Francisco on the NFC side. And that's when the home-field edge would matter most, meaning the Broncos and 49ers in the Super Bowl.

Now, let's see how smart those guesses are.

— routon@csindy.com

RangerRich

By Rich Tosches

Different look at Gary Flakes

We've heard by now the quiet voice of **Gary Flakes**, who was convicted of helping gun down a pair of teenagers in our village in 1997 when he was 16, announcing that he's running for a City Council seat.

And we've heard the outrage, the loudest coming from the pro-gun nut editorial-page boss at the *Gazette*, demanding Flakes withdraw from the race, labeling him unworthy of our forgiveness because "the people of Colorado Springs are not God."

Today, let's listen to another voice. The voice of a woman who knows Flakes well. She is white. Flakes is black. She is a bright young attorney, a former Chancellor Scholar at the University of Denver Law School. She is a tireless advocate for the disadvantaged.

And she is Gary Flakes' wife.

They met in spring 2011, not long after Flakes had been released from prison. He was speaking at a conference on juvenile justice and legal reform.

"Gary was telling his story and I listened," says the 27-year-old woman, who asked that her name not be used because of the uproar in some quarters over Flakes' campaign and a fear for her safety. "There was something special about his character," she says. "He was humble and honest. He spoke of his life. He wasn't getting paid. It was by his own volition that he got involved in the movement to reform the system and rehabilitate disadvantaged children and give them an opportunity."

'There was something special about his character.'

Flakes did not care about any of that in 1997. He and teen pal **Jeron Grant** drove up behind 13-year-old **Andy Westbay** and 15-year-old **Scott Hawrysiak** on Valentine's Day. The boys were killed with a pair of shotgun blasts. In a dramatic case of legal bungling, Flakes and Grant were each convicted of being an accessory to murder. No one, two juries decided, pulled the trigger.

Flakes testified that he drove the car, stopping it because Grant said he wanted to get out and shoot the two boys.

Flakes is now 32. He served his time. Educated himself in prison. Became a Muslim, too, which doesn't really help his cause in our, uh, conservative town.

Last year, in an interview with *Gazette* columnist **Bill Vogrin**, Flakes said: "I'm definitely out here changing my life and being positive. I consider myself a living example."

An example of what? Of the possibilities, says his wife.

"Everyone in prison says when they get out they'll do good things and give back," she says. "Gary could have chosen manual labor or delivering pizza just to make money. But instead, he found a way to be a voice for a better juvenile-justice system."

So Flakes talks of his life, at conferences and seminars and high schools, including gatherings at Palmer and Wasson. Flakes started Infinite Mind Consulting, which focuses on leadership. Instead of hiding from his life, he lays it all out. He hopes kids are listening.

From City Councilor **Jan Martin**: "I have great compassion for the loss of those two boys. I was here back then. But when we send people through the judicial system and we give them a sentence, when it's done we want them to live a good life. I feel that way with Gary. I think he can do good things for our community."

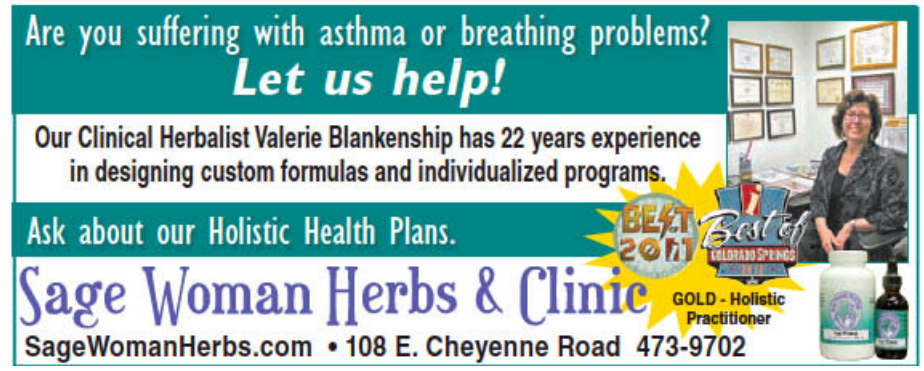
"Forgiveness," **Mark Twain** wrote, "is the fragrance that the violet sheds on the heel that has crushed it."

Perhaps, if we try to understand the good man that Gary Flakes seems to want to be, even as we remember the terrible boy that he was and vow never to forget the short lives of two lovable kids named Andy and Scott, well, maybe some light shines through the darkness.

"At the campaign announcement, Gary was really hurting and remembering," his wife said. "A family was in the room and they were all crying. Afterwards one of the women came up to Gary and said she was a best friend of Andy and Scott. And then she told him, 'I forgive you.' And she gave him a hug.

"That forgiveness is something he has prayed for since he was 16."

***Rich Tosches (rangerrich@csindy.com) also writes a Sunday column in the* Denver Post**.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MSRP $18,665 Payment $179 per month for 42 months, 10,000 miles per year. $1000 due at signing plus first months payment and taxes. $179/month plus tax. 42 month closed end lease W.A.C. No security deposit required

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